

## SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

### Celtic Frost

With 1349, Sagh and Burn In Every Step  
Thursday, September 28 at 8pm  
Starlite Room  
\$29.50 Advance at [unionevents.com](http://unionevents.com),  
Ticketmaster, Megatunes, Blackbyrd and FS

Returning after a nearly 17-year hiatus, innovative European black-metal gods Celtic Frost hit the Starlite Room as part of their reunion tour. According to Celtic mythology, the number 17 is sacred, as 17 generations represents the longevity of their ancestral memory—which asks the question: will the band remember their roots and play such descriptively titled, sacred classics as “Phallic Tantrum?”

### Shout Out Out Out Out

With Holy Fuck and Land of Talk  
Friday, September 29 at 8pm  
Dinwoodie Lounge

Shout Out Out Out Out is playing the University again again again again. They're also touring with a band called Holy Fuck, a group of intellectuals whose name quite obviously reflects the noble tradition of getting divine consent from the King of Kings in order to fornicate.



### Blue October

With Test Your Reflex and Oslo  
Saturday, 30 September at 5pm  
Starlite Room  
\$19.50 at Ticketmaster and Blackbyrd

To cap off a great September we have Blue October, a Houston rock quartet whose name reminds us of the unfortunate month of mid-terms ahead. As if we needed any more reminders of the following month of hell and emotional torment about to be smacked down on the unsuspecting University populace still full of Orientation week beer and nachos. On a lighter note, Blue October is touring to promote their new album, *Foiled*.

### Red Ram

With Lovertine  
Saturday, 30 September at 9pm  
Sidetrack Café  
\$7 at the door

Red Ram hits the Sidetrack this Saturday to promote the eminent release of their debut CD. Unfortunately, their name's one vowel off of a reference to *The Shining*, but it still makes me wonder if the band doesn't secretly believe in ... murder? Just throwing it out there. In unrelated Red Ram news, our A&E editor mentioned that the lead singer—whom she spoke with in person—“smelled sexy.” This could potentially translate into a certain onstage “sexiness”; unfortunately, I can neither confirm nor deny this claim.

### Junior Boys

With Nik7  
Tuesday, 3 October at 9pm  
Sidetrack Café  
\$12 advance

When people say, “What cool bands have come from Hamilton, Ontario?” there's usually a long awkward silence. Luckily, this silence can be avoided by going to the Junior Boys concert, where you can finally state with confidence, “Why, the Junior Boys, an electronic pop group who just released their groundbreaking new album *So This Is Goodbye*, that's who!” To that question you could also reply, “The drummer from Rush,” but it's unknown whether or not that counts.

JOHN KMECH  
Bringing back sexy back hair



The Edmonton International Film Festival is kicking off another year of cinematic genius. Mike Larocque gets the low-down from Michael Sparaga, director of *Sidekick*, who's gesticulating in the photo to the right



# Edmonton's reel deal

## Preview: Edmonton International Film Festival

Runs 29 September to 7 October  
[www.edmontonfilmfest.com](http://www.edmontonfilmfest.com)

MIKE LAROCQUE  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

From the Metro to the Garneau to the Princess Theatre, independent films have always found a home in Edmonton, even if the number of venues dedicated to the genre is limited. Over the next week, however, the sweat-stained reels of do-it-yourself filmmakers will be hooked up across Edmonton as an array of independent flicks light up screens for the Edmonton International Film Festival.

Now in its 20th year, the EIFF has grown into a nine-day festival, showcasing some of the best productions not only in Canadian independent filmmaking, but also many unique and exciting selections from the international community. This Saturday's opening night gala will pop the cork on nine days of films from Edmonton and around the world.

Among the many members of the film industry attending will be Toronto's Michael Sparaga, writer and producer of the superhero inspired *Sidekick*. While this will be Sparaga's first visit to Edmonton and his first submission to the EIFF, his previous experience with *Sidekick* has taught him that festivals like this one are lifelines for independent filmmakers searching for an audience.

“[Festivals] are the most important thing,” Sparaga affirms. “They give you a chance to have your film reviewed. They give you a chance to see your film on screen with an audience. You get to gauge their responses, and in a way, the

festivals validate everything you've done.

“There are festivals like Cannes and Sundance, but they often have agendas and will choose themes, so you could have a fantastic movie and not get in,” Sparaga continues. “A zillion people don't get into Sundance, but there are a zillion other festivals out there. We applied to a lot of film festivals, and I haven't been flown to France yet, but I've been to Idaho and San Francisco and some cool places. It's been a year since we've screened it for just family and friends, and I've barely been home. I've been all over Canada and parts of the States—it's been the most incredible year of my life.”

**“[Festivals] are the most important thing. They give you a chance to have your film reviewed. They give you the chance to see your film on screen with an audience. You get to gauge their responses, and in a way, the festivals validate everything you've done.”**

MICHAEL SPARAGA

Sparaga's film tells the story of Norman Neale, an awkward, comic-book-loving office worker who tries to harness the slight telekinetic ability of a co-worker, Victor. Realizing his trainee may be more of a super-jerk than a superhero,

Norman is forced to re-evaluate his attempts to become Victor's sidekick.

Made on a shoestring budget provided largely by Sparaga's credit cards, *Sidekick* proves to be a perfect example of the independent filmmaking to be showcased at the EIFF. Using friends in the business both as actors and as the crew, Sparaga's film shows how much can be done with a little determination and a quality script. The screenplay for *Sidekick* managed to attract actor Danny Baldwin (*Homicide: Life on the Street*)—the only Baldwin free of a Razzie award—to join the project as Norman's friend and comic store owner Chuck.

“It was a fluke,” Sparaga admits. “My director Blake Van de Graaf and I were university roommates, and the show we loved beyond love was *Homicide*. I had written the role of Chuck for a ‘name’ actor—someone that people could latch onto. About three weeks into shooting, we heard Daniel Baldwin was in town and it turned out someone working on [*Sidekick*] had a friend who was his personal assistant, and he was able to get Daniel the script, and he loved it. You can get to almost anybody, and if you are able to offer them something, they're not regularly being offered—Daniel said himself that he's been playing a cop and a killer in 50 movies straight.”

Daniel Baldwin, along with Sparaga and cast members of *Sidekick*, will be appearing at the EIFF along with dozens of other directors, producers and actors with entries in the event. While avid film enthusiasts likely already have their passes primed for the coming week, the EIFF is also a welcome haven for those first venturing outside of the big-budget studio films. If nothing else, you're bound to be rubbing shoulders with a few stars.





# Opening the floodgates

Fields to Flood are set to release their latest CD out into the wild blue yonder

## Fields to Flood

With This Civil Twilight, Columbus and Hills Like White Elephants  
Saturday, 30 September at 8pm  
The Powerplant

ASHLEY SCARLETT  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

In a music scene that's incessantly teetering on the edge of hip and obscure, Edmonton-based quartet Fields to Flood have challenged the current conception of musical progression. Whereas most bands aim for constant reinvention of both themselves and what's popular, Fields To Flood is more concerned with releasing music that forgoes the immediate for a sound that, instead, exudes artistic maturity.

"Some of [the songs] are ideas that were around even before I joined the band," explains bass player Aaron Giebelhaus. "We sort of sit on things for a while. The songs start out as somewhat primitive ideas, and then we really learn what works and where we want to go with things. We will be modifying it as we play it until we are completely satisfied."

It's this emphasis on self-satisfaction rather than an adherence to "new" forms of music that has Fields To Flood releasing a comparatively short four-song EP—after two-and-a-half years of fertile musical endeavors. The short playlist, however, isn't

spawned from a lack of ideas or ingenuity; instead, it's the product of a desire to fully develop each song to its full potential, and allow it to grow hand-in-hand with the band over time and through experience.

**"I don't really feel like our music is directly influenced by other local bands. Maybe it's just a personality thing or a scene thing."**

ROB BATKE

"I think that [progression] is a natural thing," says Rob Batke, the band's front man. "I don't think that we need to push ourselves to be different, or progressive or something like that. I don't know, maybe it's different for some bands. I mean we definitely want to progress, but when progressing with the scene you're always working against the clock; you're always putting out 'old' stuff."

The process of tailoring their songs in order to best represent themselves isn't only a function of personal re-evaluation, but is also facilitated by the inter-band relationships that the Edmonton music scene breeds.

"I don't really feel like our music

is directly influenced by other local bands," Batke says. "Maybe it's just a personality thing or a scene thing. There's definitely influence there, but I'm not sure that it's necessarily musical. It's more the relationships. There are local bands like Down East Day that have really influenced our band as far as helping get us established goes, even though they're not an influence on our songwriting."

This influence might best be reflected in the band's move to enlist Graham Lessard of The Floor to record their latest release.

"We were excited to have found the right person for input on these songs," Giebelhaus explains. "The music was all there; it was just how to go about recording and producing it."

"It was interesting to see [Lessard's] take on it," Giebelhaus continues. "He put a different spin on some of the songs and some of the aspects of songs. We played the songs the same way as always, but just his production brings out the songs just a little bit differently."

According to Fields to Flood, while these inter-band ties can prove stagnating, the various sub-scenes have helped keep Edmonton's music scene from settling into a simple demographic identity. In some cases, the outward appearance of stagnation may actually be reflective of inner growth.



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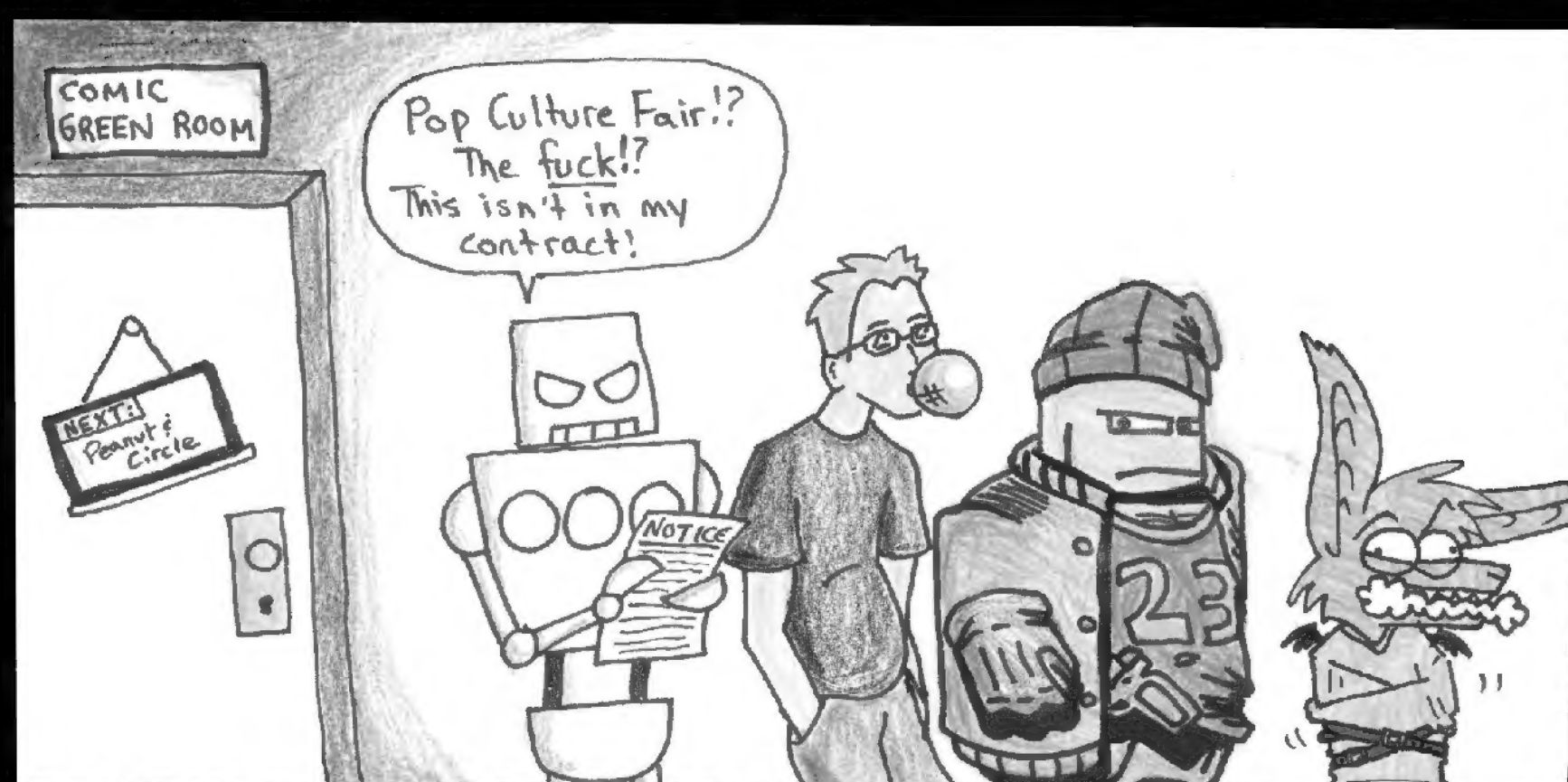
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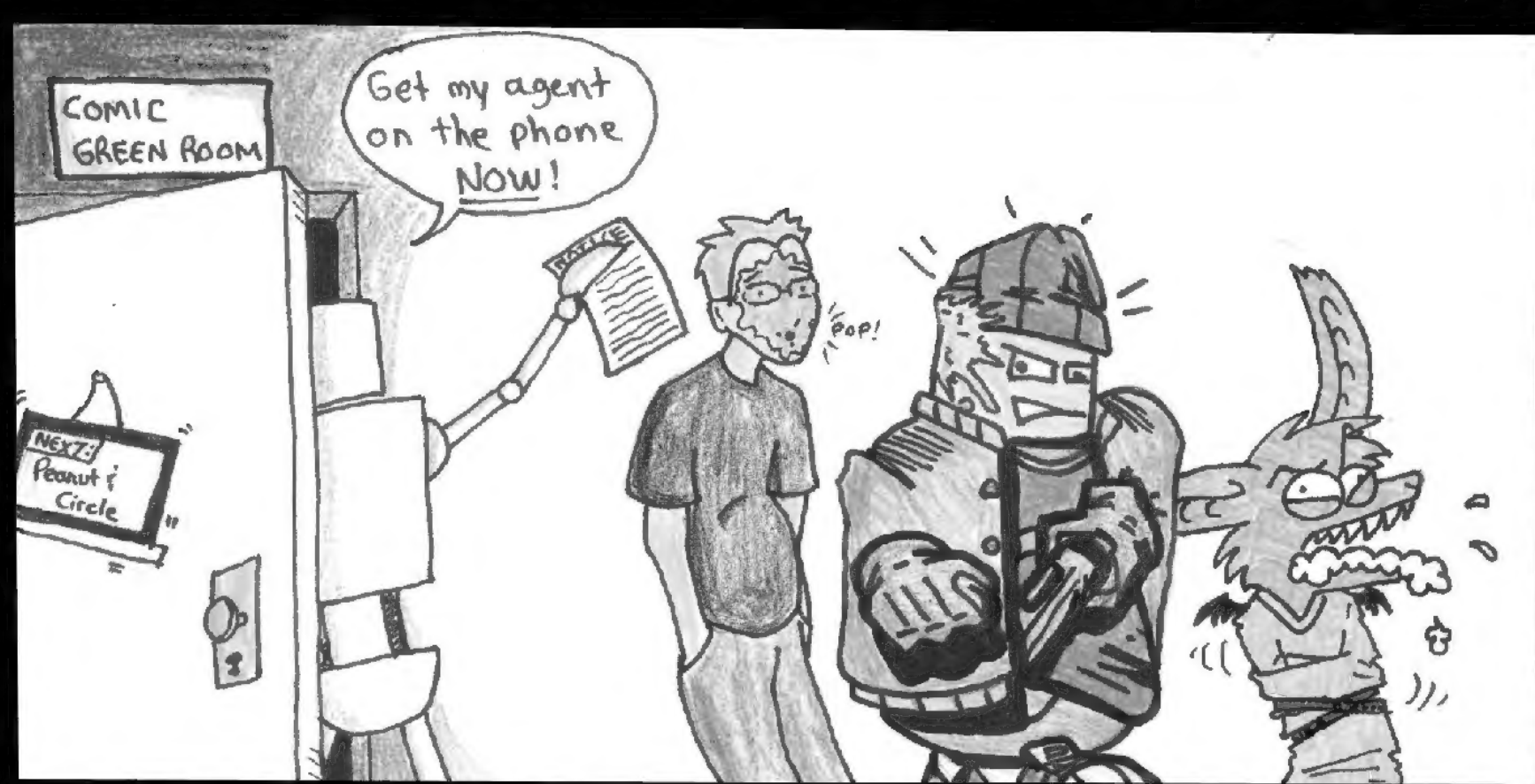


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# The new Hollywood

Bollywood films and their traditional, romantic plot lines are becoming increasingly popular with North American audiences

RYAN HEISE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

After playing for over two months at Cineplex Odeon in South Edmonton Common, *Kabhi Alvida Maa Khena* (Never Say Goodbye) has become but one example of the rising popularity of Bollywood cinema in Canada.

Centered in Mumbai, India, Bollywood contributes between 200–300 Hindi-language films to India's yearly national output of around 1000, making it one of the largest film industries in the world. However, it's been the exports of Bollywood—whose films are often categorized by their torrid love affairs, use of traditional Indian values and elaborate song-and-dance routines—that have found success throughout the world.

**“Bollywood is massively entertaining. It's never been about high art. It's a completely free-enterprise exercise; there's no government money put into it. It's made simply to entertain.”**

**DR STEPHEN SLEMON**

According to Dr Stephen Slemmon, a professor of English and Film Studies at the University of Alberta, the fast-growing appeal of Bollywood films in countries such as Canada can be attributed to a few different reasons.

“Bollywood is massively entertaining,” Dr Slemmon said. “It's never been about high art. It's a completely free-enterprise exercise; there's no government money put into it. It's made simply to entertain.”

“A lot of people are going down to the video store and renting some seriously crappy movie, and discovering in the process of doing this that

it really wasn't much fun—it was made without a great deal of heart,” Dr Slemmon continued.

From his perspective, movie lovers can go down to 34th avenue or Stony Plain Road and rent a Bollywood film for a dollar or two, or, if they feel so inclined, buy them in a two-for-one or three-for-one deal; it's the only rational thing to do.

Dr Slemmon also pointed out that, with such a large Indian population in Canada, the cultural connection to one's homeland plays a significant role. Bollywood has attempted to reach out to the vast Indian demographics around the world and offer a glimpse into India's dynamic culture.

English and Film Studies PhD student Mridula Chakraborty echoed this sentiment. “It's very interesting in the way that [Bollywood] educates the nation, but also educates the diasporic Indian audience about the changing morality that's happening in their home country,” she said.

Bollywood has also been very proactive in using the rise of the English language and popular culture to produce films that resonate within not only varying generations of Indians, but also many other cultures throughout the world.

“They know exactly what's going on in hip-hop and they know what's going on with Beyoncé's latest thing; [Bollywood]'s really tuned into popular culture,” Dr Slemmon said. “These changes in Bollywood cinema are targeting new demographics around the globe, while still appealing to its traditional Hindi base.”

U of A student Manik Chahal's attraction to Bollywood is in line with Dr Slemmon's description. While she loves the cultural insights the films grant her, the entertainment value isn't lost.

“There's so much to it,” Chahal said. “You have the music, you have these beautiful song and dance numbers, and you can watch them over and over again. It doesn't matter if you know the ending, because it's about being entertained by the whole movie. You watch a three hour thing and make a night out of it.”



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# Stabilo made of self-depricating ink



**Stabilo**  
*Happiness and Disaster*  
EMI Canada  
www.stabilomusic.com

CARLA KAVINTA  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

If the moniker Stabilo sounds familiar to you, it's because the BC band of the same name snagged it from the name of a highlighter brand. Ironically, it was the same highlighter they used to jot down possible band names. But what poses more of a paradox, though, is their newest album, *Happiness and Disaster*, which aims to captivate listeners through catchy hooks and lyrics.

Many have probably experienced the inescapable angst after hearing their first single, "Flawed Design," or the bittersweet sentiment of their most recent release, "Kidding Ourselves." However, the group often hits a more serious note, tackling songs with topics more on the disaster side, such as "If It Was Up To Me" and "Coffee Spills." On the lighter side, the band juxtaposes the truth-telling lyricism with lively guitar, bass and percussion arrangements that make it difficult to drive their melodies out of your head.

With an upcoming tour and plans to take on the world, Stabilo celebrates the ups and downs of life with *Happiness and Disaster*, all the while hoping they won't remind you of school supplies.

**Stabilo**  
With Tomi Swick and The Suits XL  
Monday, 2 October at 8pm  
The Powerplant

CARLA KAVINTA  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

For some, a flashback to the year 2000 will revive fond memories of a more innocent Britney, a less scantily clad Christina and, perhaps, the end of the boy-band boom we knew all too well. For others, the year 2000 marks the year when Stabilo's infectious hit, "Everybody," infiltrated radio stations across Canada.

Six years later, the Canadian four-some still takes pride in their poignant phrases and gut-wrenching choruses. However, Stabilo vocalist and guitarist Christopher John believes that those years were a learning experience for them all.

"'Everybody' was one of the first songs Jesse [fellow vocalist and guitarist] ever wrote, which was probably, like, ten years ago," John says. "I can't even remember what our songwriting approach was back then; but this time around, I think a lot more thought goes into songwriting."

"We've been doing it for about ten years and we're just trying to get the lyrics and melodies just right—rewriting and working on it until it's perfect. Not that it's ever perfect, but just until we can handle listening to our stuff without cringing."

This is far too modest of an answer, especially since their recent album, *Happiness and Disaster*, forces listeners to do anything but cringe. However, with intensely honest lyrics and haunting melodies, the songs do have a tendency to gravitate towards the gloomier side.

"I think, musically, the songs aren't



necessarily so dark," John explains. "I think lyrically, we tend to explore our melancholy natures. I guess we're usually in darker spaces when we write songs—at least I am for sure. When I get inspired [to write a song], I'm generally not feeling too hot."

"I've tried to write happy songs, but I guess they just get thrown into the garbage because they sound kind of cheesy. Maybe somebody else should sing them."

Although the album does serve as the perfect rainy day companion, John also notes that the album is entitled *Happiness and Disaster* for a reason. He illustrates its duality and stresses

that there's always a brighter side.

"Yeah, the songs are dark, but we do try to infuse them with a sense of hope or happiness so it's not all bleak," John says. "There are two sides to a coin and two sides to life, and everybody experiences both sides to some extent, I hope."

However, delving into the hearts and minds of many listeners via meaningful lyrics isn't Stabilo's sole talent. With varied textures, the group also focuses on creating a rich sound that has a flair for incorporating a medley of styles.

"I don't know how we generate the melodies; they just kind of come out

of your head," John says. "We all listen to a variety of music, so I think that's definitely where the different musical influences you're hearing come from. I like to think that we're able to meld different genres, styles and eras of music to form a cohesive, somewhat unique, musical expression."

Fully equipped with poetic lines, drifting melodies and relentless ambition, Stabilo is prepared to bring their music to a larger stage.

"Our plan right now is to keep writing songs, keep putting albums out and keep on touring," John says. "Hopefully we'll branch out and get to play for the rest of the world."

## Gibson, Cruise don't spring from the same loony bin



ELIZABETH  
VAIL

Cruise presently performs as Skippy Brainwash McJumps-A-Lot.

Granted, while their personal nose-dives seem to coincide, the media's attempt to lump them together into the same category is grossly unfair. Now, I'm hardly a Tom Cruise fan. He's a squinty-eyed little elf whose best films (*Minority Report*, *Collateral*) usually involve him getting shot or maimed, or having his eyeballs gouged out. But really, this creepy little dude hasn't really done anything illegal.

True, both actors' erratic behaviour has been attributed to their religions (that would be Scientology and Schismatic Catholicism). Tom Cruise,

formerly renowned for being tight-lipped about his personal life, proceeded to lose all of his shizz in a twelve-month period that coincided with his increased involvement in Scientology. He leapt on couches, ranted about Ritalin and hurt poor Brooke Shields' feelings. And yeah, Suri is probably an alien, if not in baby form, then just waiting for the right moment to leap out of that adorable little tyke's chest with a full head of hair. But what Tom Cruise has done in the past isn't wrong. Annoying, yes. Freaky, yes. Offensive, maybe. But wrong? No. Manhandling Oprah isn't a crime, and a lot of celebrities have managed to get away with a

lot worse while still remaining mystifyingly endearing.

Mel Gibson was caught driving under the influence, and to top off that delightful stunt, during his arrest, he launched into a racist diatribe against the Jews, a stance that his father, an admitted Holocaust denier, is infamous for. In his mug shot, he has the dazed, tentative smile of a man who has no idea where he is but figures nothing bad can come of it.

So why are people putting Gibson and Cruise into the same boat? Gibson's preferred state of transportation takes thousands of innocent lives every year, but at worst, Cruise owes Oprah \$200

for a new loveseat from Leon's.

Which brings me to my ultimate hypothesis: if anyone will be able to recover from the media firestorm, Tom Cruise will do it first. Despite the apparently fanatical demands of his religion, his sudden enmity towards plush furniture and the creepy control he keeps over his dead-eyed fiancée, his contributions to film will be the same as they've ever been. Give it a year, maybe two, and once everyone is accustomed to the new Tom, his movies will start making money again. People will stop caring that the little man flipping switches and turning wheels in Cruise's brain has been outsourced to Jupiter.

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# School For Scoundrels doesn't make the grade

## School for Scoundrels

Directed by Todd Phillips  
Starring Billy Bob Thornton, Jod Heder  
and Jacinda Barrett  
Empire Theatres  
Opens Friday, 19 September

ELIZABETH VAIL  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

*Napoleon Dynamite's* Jon Heder plays Roger, a meek meter maid in *School for Scoundrels*, a remake of the 1960 film starring Ian Carmichael. Mouth-breathing, virginal and prone to panic attacks as well as fainting spells, Roger mirrors pretty much what audiences expected from Andy Stitzer in *40-Year-Old Virgin* to be like, before they actually saw the movie and realized that it was packed with creativity, humour and compassion. Unfortunately, though, that's where the comparisons end: entertaining qualities are what *School for Scoundrels* sorely lacks.

When Roger gets booted out of the Big Brothers program for the third time—being just too uncool for underprivileged kids to be seen around—a buddy (played by the underused David

Cross) suggests a super-secret class run by the enigmatic Dr P (Billy Bob Thornton).

Using teaching techniques that include inciting random acts of violence and close-range paintball injuries (and possibly sexual assault, in one of the film's ugliest and least-funny jokes), Dr P and his threatening henchman Leshar (Michael Clarke Duncan) seek to inspire blubbering chumps like Roger to not only gain the confidence to act like men, but also the social obliviousness to act like *obnoxious* men. "You are lions!" Dr P screams to his class of misfits, wimps and abused husbands, showing a picture of a giant cat tearing into a helpless animal. The picture serves to elucidate that Dr P wants his students to be strong enough to beat down on the weak, rather than becoming actual contributing individuals in society.

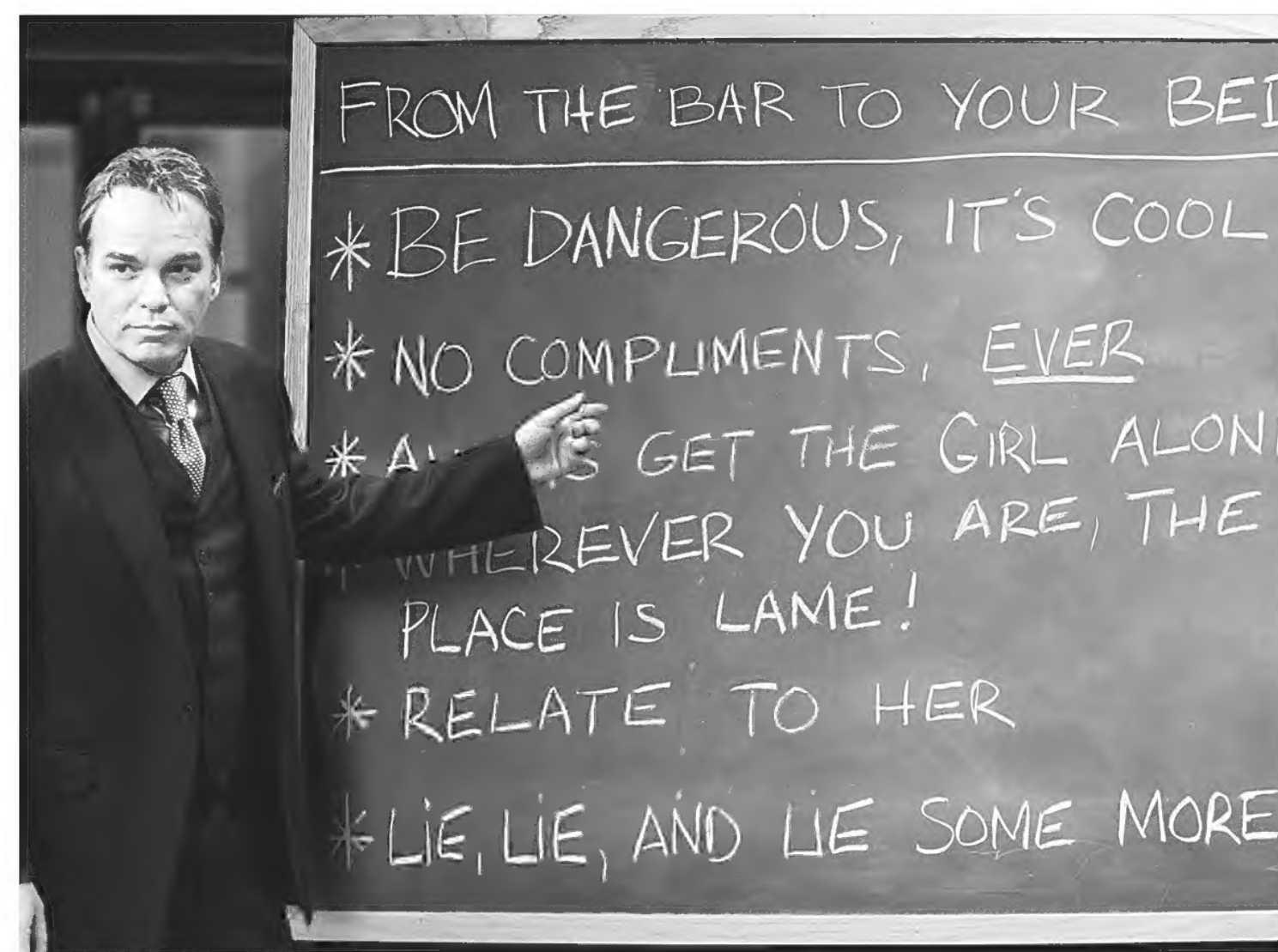
Roger takes to the program like a fish to water, eventually growing the balls to ask out Amanda, the girl of his dreams (*The Last Kiss's* Jacinda Barrett). However, his unprecedented success apparently awakens the competitive edge in Dr P, who proceeds to go after

the same girl with all the advantage of his experience. The game, such as it is, is on.

While Thornton, in real life, is by no means as awful as Dr P, he's exceedingly unexceptional. The supporting cast does the best it can to keep the film's flagging energy alive. Sarah Silverman is venomously amusing as Amanda's sarcastic roommate, and Ben Stiller pops by in an inspired cameo that nearly steals the entire film.

**"You are lions!" Dr P screams to his class of misfits, wimps and abused husbands, showing a picture of a giant cat tearing into a helpless animal.**

However, Jon Heder is probably the worst casting choice of the entire movie. With his heavy breathing, jutting lower lip and inability to close his mouth without visible effort, he



succeeds in convincing us that he's a dweeb, but not that he's a romantic hero who's truly learned how to hold his own in a world of hard knocks. He's not believable as a confident leading man, and is too unsettling and creepy to garner much empathy.

The film runs through the spectrum of bad humour, from the traditional (ball to the groin) to the unnerving

(Michael Clarke Duncan as a rapist), with only a few good-natured laughs squeezed in between mediocrity and banality. What's supposed to be the funniest set-up of the film, the fact that Dr P's "school" is really teaching men to act like asshats, comes off a little stale—mainly because most of the characters are already asshats, and need no encouragement.

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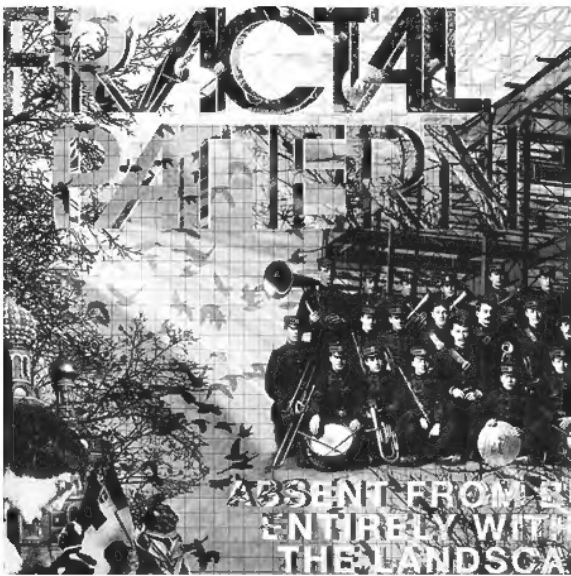
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**Fractal Pattern**  
*Absent From But Entirely Within The Landscape*  
2006 FP Records  
www.fractalpattern.com

LISA OSTROWSKI  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Fractal Pattern's second album, *Absent From But Entirely Within The Landscape*, sticks to the Edmonton-based outfit's punk-rock style, but not sickeningly so. They manage to deviate from their classic sound in a way that makes this album appeal to everyone from artsy, indie-rockers to the politically charged. The moaning French horn heard is serene and haunting while the guitars and drums bring a more aggressive sound to the record, making *Absent* a well-rounded collection of enchanting melodies.

Although the album is almost entirely instrumental, the band includes readings from Garrett Hardin's *The Tragedy of the Commons* on several of the tracks. This addition gives listeners the impression that Fractal Pattern isn't

only a musically gifted group, but a globally aware one as well. According to the band's website, *Absent* was even printed using biodegradable, soy-based inks on recycled paper. Indeed, this record is better than many that have come from bands concerned with saving the world and fighting the commerciality of North American society, simply because the band is able to bring their views into the record in an educated way without pushing them upon the listener.

Fractal Pattern doesn't take any shortcuts with *Absent*. The carefully mastered chord and tempo changes flow almost flawlessly, and can easily be appreciated by anyone with an understanding of music, global issues or art in general.



**New York Dolls**  
*One Day It Will Please Us To Remember Even This*  
Roadrunner Records  
www.nydolls.org

GWYNETH DUNSFORD  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Thirty years after the release of their

last studio album, The New York Dolls are back with something to prove. Credited as the principle inspiration of The Ramones and Blondie, The New York Dolls separated in 1977, but their latest album, *One Day It Will Please Us To Remember Even This*, is the only true indicator of whether, despite their scourges of addiction, the remaining two members can uphold the band's status.

The fourteen tracks of *One Day* are true to form with gratuitous guitar solos and humorously simplistic lyrics. However, The New York Dolls' current sound is more Bachman Turner Overdrive than "Hey ho, let's go," like on "We're All in Love" where there's much articulation by wonky harmonica riffs and stumbling keyboard strokes.

Unfortunately, though, for The New York Dolls' contemporary admirers, the artists' former do-it-yourself idealism has been left weeping on the wayside of this polished, commercial album. Likewise, the collaborative input provided by Michael Stipe and Iggy Pop is an ineffective attempt to alleviate the heavy monotony of the album. In an equally underhanded ploy, the record label has included a feebly packaged "Making of the CD" DVD to appeal to the current MTV generation.

Overall, this disc can't be wholly condemned. It can, however, be ignored; as it's neither innovatively awe-inspiring nor comfortingly familiar, The New York Dolls' music offers nothing of significance to its listeners.



**TV On The Radio**  
*Return To Cookie Mountain*  
Touch & Go Records  
www.tvontheradio.com

RYAN HEISE  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

More things in this world need to be categorized by whether or not David Bowie likes them. I mean, he's Bowie, for God's sake! Have you seen *Labyrinth*? That movie was awesome!

So, when he personally backs TV On The Radio, a New York-based experimental band, the contents of that shiny piece of plastic have to be great.

*Return To Cookie Mountain*, the band's awkwardly named latest release, isn't for the musically faint of heart. It's an adventurous look at what music can be, not what the mainstream thinks it should be. The loop-filled opening track, "I Was A Lover," stutters away with skipping beats and trippy synths that eventually give way to the

beautiful and melodic "Province," featuring backing vocals by Bowie himself. In fact, every song on the album seems to deviate from the previous. Whether it's driven by powerful vocals, dance-worthy drums or simple hand-claps, the songs seem to stand on their own as legitimate pieces of art.

*Return To Cookie Mountain* is a pretty amazing listen from start to finish. It's the type of album that makes you wonder why you listen to some of the crap that you do when there are artists like TV On The Radio doing their own thing and having it turn out fantastic. It also makes you wonder if not listening to it will make Bowie think you're a loser. The answer is yes.



**Swollen Members**  
*Black Magic*  
Battleaxe Records  
www.swollenmembers.com

SHAUN MCMULLEN  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

It's clichéd to say that sometimes in a band's lifetime comes the "dark night of the soul," where the members have to take the time to come to grips with success or failure, and find out if it's really all worth it. Too often it seems that this is a cynical PR move, fodder for a "Behind the Music" documentary, but occasionally, it results in what counts: great music. Take the new Swollen Members CD, for example.

Now, the Members have always had a penchant for the gothic, and on *Black Magic*, they paint an even darker picture than they have before. But it's not the mythological demons that they're battling: the problems

they confess to are all too real, be it mental health ("Darkclouds"), artistic burnout ("Heart") or the trials of keeping it all together ("Brothers"). It's not all darkness and gloom, since there's a streak of we'll-make-it-through optimism that runs throughout. Heck, they even managed to get Ghostface Killah to contribute.

Though it won't completely alienate the post-*Monsters in the Closet* crowd, *Black Magic* doesn't exactly qualify as bubblegum rap either; it's a strong effort that proves the crew isn't finished yet. Instead, they come back with their feet firmly on the ground and those demons in check. Reason for optimism, indeed.



PUT YOUR HANDS UP IN THE AIR Cuff The Duke and the Hylozoists got the crowds rough and rowdy on Saturday.

JACKSON HINTON

Look at Hagrid.

He thinks he's William Wallace.



Unfortunately, though, he's not—but by writing for *Gateway A&E* (meetings on Thursdays at 5pm in Room 3-04, SUB), he's re-enacting Braveheart by freeing himself and his fellow countrymen from hoardes of laconic cretins.

Mel Gibson would be proud.

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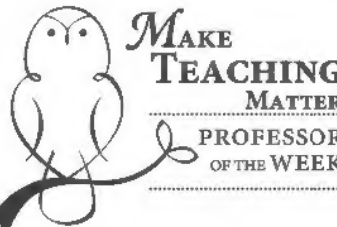
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Nominations can also be picked up/submitted at any Faculty Association office or InfoLink desk, or at the SU Executive Office front desk. Nominations can also be emailed to the Associate VP-Academic Tasneem Karbani at avpa@su.ualberta.ca.





# GOING GREEK

An inside look at campus sororities

Written by Lacina Desjarlais Photos by Charmaine Lowe and Krystina Sulatycki

## TOGA! TOGA! TOGA!

The Greek system is one of the most prevalent and well-known traditions associated with university life. However, even though we've all heard about men's and women's fraternities at the U of A, how much do we really know about our Toga-wearing population? If you're anything like me, when someone says the word "sorority," images of a bunch of beautiful, yet catty, women decked out in the hottest new fashions, secretly plotting to take over the world come to mind. While I admit that this description may be a bit overboard, when most public knowledge about these groups comes from movies like *Animal House*, *Sorority Boys*, *Van Wilder* and pretty much every other movie about college kids to ever find its way onto a DVD, there are bound to be some sensational aspects, typical of any Hollywood blockbuster. I mean, does Chuck Norris *really* judge dodge ball contests as a hobby? In an effort to uncover the truth behind sororities and truly evaluate the popular ideas portrayed in the movies, I decided to don my best bedsheet to go undercover at Rush 2006—and do some myth-busting of my own.

At the beginning of my journey, I was a bit apprehensive about what to expect from the Greek community. Was I going to be welcomed with open arms, or brutally shot down because I wasn't cool enough? I arrived at 4pm in the appointed Tory lecture room to be greeted by a group of overly friendly, smiling blond girls. At first, I felt I had made a terrible mistake: wearing a pair of jeans and U of A hoodie, I didn't really fit in with the rest of the crowd, mostly primed to perfection in the latest fashions. However, my initial fears that I would be beaten with a paddle were assuaged

when the first item on the list was a lecture about the Panhellenic Council, the governing body of most sororities in North America. According to the Panhellenic representative, this type of meet-and-greet, including all the different sororities, is quite common on all campuses across North America. The next step on my sorority journey was an introduction to my Rho Gammas, or my group leaders for the week. Each girl was a member of one of the different sororities on campus, however, they were careful not to tell us recruits which sororities they were a part of, in an attempt to prevent any biases when choosing a group.

Now the real start of my sorority experience began, as the Rho Gammas took us on a tour of the four houses to spend some time with girls from each of the sororities; experiencing the environment and meeting the members of the house.

## PI BETA PHI (πΒΦ)

[www.ualberta.ca/~pibphi/](http://www.ualberta.ca/~pibphi/)  
The Pi Beta Phi sorority house, or the Pi Phis as they're nicknamed, was the first stop of the night. The Pi Phis, founded in 1867 at Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois, is the oldest sorority on campus and is dedicated to a number of service projects like Battle of the Bands and Raise-a-Reader. The Pi Phis greeted us with singing outside the front door and we were led into the house, having snacks thrust our way. I breathed a sigh of relief. So far, so good; with free food and no hazing, things were looking pretty rosy. Then the questions began. I must have been asked about myself, my major, and my hobbies by every single girl in the house—no small feat considering there were about 20 Pi Phis present. By the time the question period ended I felt like a key witness

in a murder trial, forced to recount again and again the details of the case. Luckily, my Pi Phi interrogation was concluded by an announcement that our stay was to end with a tour of the house itself.

The Pi Phi house is an older place but they've fixed it up quite nicely inside. It contains room for seven girls to live and rent is reasonable, falling somewhere between \$325–425 a month for room and utilities, which, considering the current economic boom and high rent rates, isn't bad. There's one drawback to being a Pi Phi though: while they're a group of very friendly and down to earth girls, the cost to be a part of the elite Pi Phi's is the highest among the sororities at a whopping \$605 a year, or roughly one semester's worth of books.

## KAPPA ALPHA THETA (ΚΑΘ)

[www.kappaalphatheta.ca](http://www.kappaalphatheta.ca)  
The Thetas, founded in 1870 at Indiana Ashbury (now DePauw University) in Greencastle, Indiana, are involved in ABC Headstart and in the Festival of Trees, among other programs. My experience at the Theta house was much the same as my experience at the Pi Phi house; once again we were greeted with singing and more free food. But there was one small difference: this time there were 50 girls asking me questions instead of just 20. Imagine a small room filled with dozens of squawking chickens and you'll have an idea of the noise level. Once again, I was treated to a house tour and found that the Theta house, although older than the Pi Phi house, was actually larger and a lot nicer. The Theta house has room for 13 people to live and the rent fluctuates between \$375–475 a month, depending on the room. However, the spoiled little Theta's have one thing the Pi Phi's don't:



four nights of the week they have their own cook and someone else, probably a minimum-wage slave, does their grocery shopping for them. I'll admit that when I heard this, becoming a Theta was sounding pretty good, but for some reason, the Theta house felt more exclusive and less open than the Pi Phi house did—not to mention that the cost to join was still a bit much for my wallet to handle at \$560.

**DELTA GAMMA (ΔΓ)**

www.ualberta.ca/~deltagam/  
The third stop on our whirlwind tour of the sororities was the Delta Gamma (Dee Gee) house, founded in 1873 at Lewis School in Oxford, Mississippi. Once again singing and free food ensued and I could feel my pants getting a little tighter, but I valiantly took another cookie and pulled myself together in the face of adversity to bring you the inside scoop on the Dee Gees. This house was actually my favorite on the tour bus, but as I was told by my Rho Gamma, "Different strokes for different folks. You'll know in your heart which sorority is right for you and you'll make the best decision for you," so don't let my bias cloud your judgment of the other houses. The Dee Gees are involved in helping the elderly and working with charities that provide aid to the blind. The house itself was the newest of the four. It has room for seven girls to live, one of these being, of course, the president of the sorority and then which ever lackeys she decides will be most suitable. One upside to being a Dee Gee is that each room is furnished so there's no need worry about moving anything heavy if this house is where you end up. The most obvious drawback to the Dee Gee house is that it's located right next to the Delta Kappa

Epsilon (Dekes) house, and they have a reputation for partying, so I would be prepared for pranks and loud noise if I lived there. Rent at the Dee Gee house is respectable at between \$375–500 a month like most of the other houses on campus, however, the fee to join the Dee Gees is still ridiculously high at \$595 for the year.

**ALPHA GAMMA DELTA (ΑΓΔ)**

www.alphagammadelta.net  
The Alpha Gamma Delta house was the last stop on the tour and once again I was greeted with a theme that was starting to get old by now; you guessed it, singing and mini sandwiches. However, the Alpha Gammas—founded in 1904 at Sycaruse University in Sycaruse, New York—redeemed their lack of theme variation by being the nicest and most sincere group of girls that I met. As a slightly smaller group, I was able to have a good conversation with two of the ladies who provided me with some valuable information about choosing a sorority. I was told to "listen to whatever my heart told me" and I should join a group only if I really clicked with them; I would know when I was finally initiated that I had made the right choice. This advice was quite astute, because the more I learned, the more I realize that the decision to join a women's fraternity isn't one that should be taken lightly—it becomes a big part of your life. While the ladies of Alpha Gamma Delta were certainly very nice, I found that their house was the most disappointing. It's an older house, and although the inside has been freshly renovated it still retains some of its former shabbiness. The Alpha Gamma house also has less living space available for members wishing to move in, with room for only five people, so chances are slim

that you'll get a room there. Rent is much the same as the other houses, falling between \$325–475 depending on the room, and once again, you face the extremely high costs of being a part of the "in crowd," at \$594 for the year.

**TO JOIN OR NOT TO JOIN**

After my journey through the Greek labyrinths of campus, I was surprised to realize that I had actually enjoyed myself. Despite the fact that my clothes were fitting a bit more snugly than before I started, I was—gasp—even thinking about joining a sorority. Over the course of my visits, I realized that each house has something unique and interesting to offer, and that joining really depends on how you mesh with the other girls and how your values match up to theirs. If you feel it in your gut, write the cheque and sign up. If not, then skip the toga altogether and go for some Greek food instead—at least it's cheaper than joining a sorority. But what I really discovered is that, though it may not be right for everyone, if you have the money and the time to devote to the house, joining a women's fraternity can be a great way to make friends and become a more active member of the community. More importantly, you can't really get reliable information from movies where the main plot line is based entirely on partying. The best way to educate yourself is first-hand experience. In the end, I decided not to join any of the women's fraternities because, like every other student on campus, I'm just trying to scrounge together enough cash to pay for next semester's tuition. Not only that but I'm too cheap to shell out \$600 to make some friends. You might call it an "Oscar the Grouch Complex," but I call it budgeting.



After scamming as many free cookies as possible, my next goal was to play myth-busters and find out just what was true about sororities and what was bonafide bullshit.

**THE MYTH:**

If you join a sorority you will have to endure some form of cruel initiation ritual or hazing, or that you could be drugged and date raped at a party.

**WHAT I LEARNED:**

The Panhellenic Council has a strict no-hazing policy. They look very badly upon houses that haze their members and urge women who feel that they've been hazed to report the incident to a council member. While this isn't to say that you will never experience hazing by someone who disregards these rules, if it does happen there are people who will stand behind you and maintain that what happened to you was wrong. I was told that the best way to prevent these types of occurrences was to refuse doing anything if it made me uncomfortable or to remove myself from the situation altogether. And while instances of male fraternity members drugging or using date rape drugs on sorority females cannot be controlled by the Panhellenic Council, they do urge all the girls in the sorority to keep an eye on their drinks and

to consume in moderation. They also urge the girls to go to parties and events in groups and to watch out for each other as much as possible.

**VERDICT : MYTH BUSTED**

**THE MYTH:**

If you join a sorority you'll be partying like it's 1999 every night of the week.

**WHAT I LEARNED:**

Sorry to everyone who craves an *Old School*-esque party experience, but all of the sorority houses on campus are dry by choice. No alcohol is allowed on house premises at anytime, which isn't to say that sorority members can't drink, they're just encouraged to do it on their own time or at scheduled events and parties. The alcohol ban is probably a good thing since it removes the temptation to drink and allows sorority members to concentrate on more important things, like their studies. It's not just alcohol that's banned at the houses either: men are banned from the upstairs of the houses unless they are helping with a move or any other G-rated activities. So, if you're looking for a good place to drink and hook-up, best head for a hotel room because you won't be getting any lovin' at the sorority houses

**VERDICT : MYTH BUSTED**

**THE MYTH:**

Joining a sorority will take up a large amount of your time and you have to spend every waking minute with the group.

**WHAT I LEARNED:**

Joining a sorority doesn't have to be a huge time commitment if you don't want it to be. Each house does require your presence at mandatory Monday night meetings or group dinners, in addition to a few select events throughout the year, but ultimately, how much time you decide to spend with the group is really a matter of choice and what you want to get out of your sorority experience.

**VERDICT : MYTH BUSTED**

**THE MYTH:**

It's hard to get into a sorority because they only look for the "cool" girls that look or dress a certain way, or have a certain major, or are rich.

**WHAT I LEARNED:**

Every women's fraternity on this campus is filled with unique women with different personalities, ethnicities, and many different goals and majors. All of the sororities are very accepting of diversity, and though you still may get cut from the team, it will not be because of how you look or because of your net worth; it really all boils down to chemistry.

**VERDICT : MYTH BUSTED**



# Bears hope Brick leads to National success

TREVOR PHILLIPS  
Sports Writer

With the puck ready to drop on the 24th edition of the Bears annual pre-season hockey tournament, the Brick Invitational, one has to wonder how important an exhibition weekend is to the total picture of a Championship Season.

Bears head coach Eric Thurston thinks it's an important time to learn the systems of the team and adapt to the new officiating standards. Though Thurston's objectives for the weekend follow the standard for pre-season matchups, the Brick Invitational has been a good measuring stick for the Bears' past championship seasons.

Since 1983, the Brick Invitational has brought with it spirited competition and a dash of luck for the home side. Since the inception of the annual tourney, the Bears have won the entire event ten times, more than twice as many as the second place Huskies and Dinos, who have a mere four each. Also, in that 24-year span, the Bears have captured 13 Canada West conference titles and six University Cups, making them by far the most rewarded regional- and national-banner collecting club.

Despite the Bears' impressive stats since the inception of the pre-season tournament, Alberta's players and coaches aren't willing to admit that it means anything more than a chance to work out the kinks.

"[The tournament] is about evaluating your players and adjusting to the new rules," Thurston said. "The only statistics I worry about are wins, losses,



FILE PHOTO: NICK WIEBE

**TOEING THE GOAL LINE** The Golden Bears return to action at Clare Drake this weekend hosting the 24th annual Brick Invitational pre-season tournament.

and my goalies' save percentage."

The Bears have also complemented a Brick Invitational title with a Canada West Conference title eight times. On top of that, the Bears have gone on to win the University Cup and the Brick in the same season—1985 and 2004—twice and took all three titles in 2004.

"I guarantee that no one else in

the room has heard these numbers," second-year goalie Aaron Sorochan said of the team's impressive record at the Brick Invitational. "We look at this as just another two exhibition games, another chance for the new players to adjust to the system. If we can come out of the weekend knowing what the referees are going to call and have our lines clicking,

that's more important than a Brick Invitational Title.

"For me [the stats are] bogus; you can take any stat in the world and if you ask that player about that record, he will say he never knew. We just take a lot of pride in winning and the banners speak for themselves."

With the Bears looking to become the first team to win three consecutive

national championships, a little luck in the pre-season couldn't hurt.

Whether the Brick Invitational tournament has turned into a pre-season good luck charm for the Golden Bears or not, it does make the weekend of exhibition puck fun to watch. The Bears will take on Saskatchewan at 7:30pm on Friday and then Lethbridge at 6pm on Saturday.

## Fútbol Pandas host left coast powers

VERONICA DOLEMAN  
Sports Writer

After suffering their first loss of the season in Winnipeg on Sunday, the fourth-ranked Pandas soccer team will return home this weekend to take on the Victoria Vikes and UBC Thunderbirds. The perennial soccer powerhouses will provide the toughest test yet for the Alberta (5-1-0) squad.

"Given the fact that we're playing the number-one ranked [Victoria] and [ninth]-ranked [UBC] teams, [wins] will be giving the players themselves a sense of confidence in knowing that truly they are a force not to be reckoned with," Pandas head coach Liz Jepsen said. "You can see it, you can believe it, but sometimes it has to be actualized and I think that's what taking six points this weekend would do."

Last season the Pandas were swept in their two matchups against UBC, failing to score in either game, but they did manage to hand Victoria two of their four losses on the season. The growing pains of last season should benefit this year's squad.

"We have a lot more experience; I think a more mature team than last year. We only had one fifth-year player last year and this year we have a number

more. We also have been together as a team for a year and a bit," Jepsen said. "Although I've been in the program prior seasons as assistant coach, everybody has their own way that they direct and run things. I think that we've now moved beyond the building stages of that and that we, as a program, are looking forward together."

The T-Birds (2-2-1) have started off slowly with losses to the Vikes and Trinity Western, and managed only a tie against CIS newcomers University College of the Fraser Valley. Victoria (4-0-1), on the other hand, has started off the season right where they left it when they won the national championship on Foote Field last November.

"Both are very formidable [opponents], so I don't think we can take either of them lightly," Jepsen said.

"Victoria has been ranked number one since the beginning of the season; they've not had any losses. They're a very experienced squad. They just had a national championship under them, so I guess with all the accolades under their belt [it appears that] they will be tougher to beat."

"But again, we don't discount UBC because they're always strong. Their coach does an excellent job with them. I'm sure that both games will be good and challenging."

The Pandas are one win away from



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

**HEY! YOU FORGOT SOMETHING** The Pandas will have their toughest task yet when they take on UBC and UVic.

matching last season's total of six, and this weekend will mark just the half-way point in the season. Having spent the past three weeks beating up on the teams at the bottom of the division—Saskatchewan, Lethbridge and Regina—the west coast foes will provide the strongest litmus test for how good the Pandas really are this season.

"If we win our two games, or when

we win our two games, however you want to look at it if you're superstitious or not, I think it will send a real message out," Jepsen said. "I think that this is just the next rung of the ladder that we have to climb. We've taken a lot of points from the games that we've had to date with just the one loss; we need to continue to push for that. Getting the points this weekend will set us up very

well for the rest of the season. It will also send a message: if you can play with two of the best teams in Canada West and come out on top, then certainly your outlook down the long run is going to be a lot stronger."

The Pandas will be battling UBC on Saturday at noon. They take on the Vikes the same time the next day. Both games go at Foote Field.





FILE PHOTO:JOHANN BROWN

**GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN** Dean Whalen (10) has graduated, but he could be back to play in the Bears’ alumni game.

# Bears face familiar foes in hoops alumni game

CHRIS O’LEARY  
Sports Staff

During the last weekend of September every year, Golden Bears basketball head coach Don Horwood likely regrets coaching his former players to the best of his ability.

Horwood’s current team will take to the court for the first time this Saturday night in an exhibition game against the program’s alumni. While the thought of an alumni game might conjure up images of pot-bellies, bald spots and knee braces, the Bears basketball team knows better than to underestimate their competition—that’s what they did last year, when they lost to their more experienced counterparts.

Horwood thought last year’s loss to the alumni team proved to be a sign of things to come for his 2005/06 squad, and wants to avoid the same fate this year.

“Up until last year, I don’t know if we’d lost an alumni game in 15 years. Last year we lost the alumni game and it was a pretty mediocre year for us; we were 10–10,” he said. “In my mind, [the alumni game] is a measuring stick. In the years we’ve done well, we’ve always beaten the alumni.

Whether we can this year or not, I don’t know. I like our chances.”

Last year’s game featured several members from the 2001/02 lineup, the last Bears team to win a national championship. Guards Phil Scherer, Mike Melnychuk and Stephen Parker (brother to current Bear Andrew Parker), along with post Robbie Valpreda proved to be too much for last year’s Bears team to handle.

Although the score of the game was never much in doubt last year, the Parker brothers played a game of their own, trading baskets throughout the second half. Younger brother Andrew said he’s looking forward to a rematch this weekend.

“I’d love to [take Stephen on again]. It’s a rivalry. We’ve been doing that since we were kids. I was doing it, actually,” the North-Edmonton product said. “Steve was always bigger and better. I want to best him.”

With a vastly different team than the one that Bears’ hoop fans saw last season—the Bears brought in six recruits from British Columbia—Horwood is optimistic not only about the alumni game, but the direction the team’s heading in for the coming season.

“All of the recruits have been

playing well; they’re picking up the offence and defence quickly and they’ve got a great attitude,” Horwood said. “Justin Van Loo, he’ll give [post player] Scott Gordon some help. We’ve got two genuine point guards [in CG Morrison and Scott Leigh], who make good decisions and run the floor well.”

Parker echoed his coach’s sentiments, saying there’s a vastly different atmosphere around this year’s team.

“There’s a lot more guys working hard, there’s a lot more selfless guys that know their roles better,” he said. “Last year I was a post and a guard, this year I’m playing all guard, so I know the plays better. [Last year] I’d be learning to post up half the time, this year I’m not.”

More than anything, Horwood’s ready to get his players on the floor.

“I think we’ve got a lot of horses. Harvey Bradford’s way better than last year, he’ll get substantial time. Alex Steele’s certainly working a lot harder, and we saw in the playoffs last year against Calgary what he’s capable of doing. We’ve got a lot of horses, and I’m excited to get out there and play, see what we can do.”

The 2006/07 Bears will tip off against the Bears of old Saturday night at 8pm in the Main Gym.

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# THE GATEWAY

volume XCVII number 8 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.gateway.ualberta.ca ♦ thursday, 28 september, 2006

## Health committee examines Avian Flu threat

Pre-emptive emergency response planning outlines procedures to be taken in the event of a pandemic endangering U of A students and staff

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

A mass questionnaire sent out over e-mail to gauge student opinion on the event of a possible pandemic is being explained as a simple premeditative step and not a cause for alarm.

The University of Alberta Public Health Response Committee—which was created last year to draft out how the University would deal with any sort of major health crisis happening on campus and is currently focused on a potential global Avian Flu pandemic—sent out the survey in an attempt to research, not to frighten, committee member Vice-President (Student Life) Omer Yusuf explained.

“They want to survey the student opinion of how important is a pandemic [and] how is it in the minds of students in terms of a pressing and urgent matter,” Yusuf said.

The Committee meets every two weeks, to draft out potential emergency situation decisions, and consists of 27 members, including the SU, most departments on campus, libraries, Academic Information and Communication Technologies (AICT), the Registrar’s Office, Campus Security Services, the University Health Centre and Capital Health.

“If there ever is an emergency, the ability to make snap decision is a luxury that the University might not be able to afford,” Yusuf said.

University VP (Academic) Olive Yonge, who chairs the Public Health Response Committee, said Capital Health is currently tracking all confirmed international cases of the Avian Flu—which the Committee links to their website—and the

World Health Organization is listing the global threat of the Avian Flu at varying levels of danger.

Yusuf stressed that, although its repercussions are being discussed, reports released from the World Health Organization show the Avian Flu has yet to become a global health threat.

“Although the Avian Flu is in existence right now, it’s not in a stable form where it can be transmitted to humans. Right now there’s [been] animal-to-human contact but no stable human-to-human contacts,” Yusuf said.

But while a vaccination against the Avian Flu hasn’t yet been developed, on 24 and 25 October, a mass vaccination for the normal flu virus will be held in the Buttersome at a subsidized cost for students. According to Yusuf, research suggests that protection against the normal flu virus may help you deal with a mutating virus or help prevent an unstable virus from getting inside your system.

And while the survey also touched on willingness to volunteer in the event of a pandemic, Yusuf explained it was not yet clear what that role would entail.

“Naturally there is a liability to getting students to volunteer for something that may or may not endanger their lives,” he said. “There’s no doubt in my mind that there would be people interested in volunteering I just don’t know in what sort of capacity and neither does the University.”

According to Yusuf, the University is still fine-tuning their emergency plan to handle a pandemic and has yet to determine at what point it would be put into effect.

PLEASE SEE **PANDEMIC** ♦ PAGE 3  
ALSO READ **PALMER** ON PAGE 9



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: MIKE OTTO

**WHICH ONE GOES DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE** Vaccinations would most likely be used instead of pills to treat Avian Flu.

## SU interest in student loan changes

SCOTT LILWALL  
Deputy News Editor

A new political policy to be presented to Students’ Council next week aims at easing the financial woes of students, by advocating changes to the student loans system.

If passed, the policy designed by Vice-President (External) Dave Cournoyer would make it an objective of Council to lobby for change to the current loan process. He hopes that the changes would make it easier for students to secure financial assistance, and to make loans easier to repay. The political policy would call for the SU to lobby for end to

exemptions regarding loans, such as those that provide students who work part-time, or who have a spouse that works, with less money. As well, Cournoyer would like to see more assistance given out in the form of non-repayable loans.

“Overall, we want to see a lower level of public student debt,” Cournoyer said. “We’re looking at making sure that there’s accessibility for student finances, so students can actually get at it. We’re also trying to advocate to get the government not only to recognize tuition, but the true cost of an education.”

He explained that students face a number of costs aside from tuition—

such as transportation, food and rent—and that he feels the current student loan structure isn’t doing enough to address these other areas.

“The cost of living has gone up, enormously, in the province with the boom. We’re really seeing a detriment in that effect with students,” he said. “It’s a pretty huge issue. We hear about it every year, but it seems to be getting more and more critical.”

The student loan policy was to be discussed during last night’s Council meeting, but other business was attended to, and Council didn’t get to time to vote on the policy. It will be moved to the next meeting, Tuesday, 3 October.



JOSH NAULT

**IF IT WAS UP TO ME** Dave Cournoyer wants a better deal for U of A students.

### Inside

News	1-5
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### Reelin’ in the goods

The Edmonton International Film Festival is returning once again, and it’s bringing along some big names.

**A&E, PAGE 10**



### ... the tough get going!

It wasn’t over when the Germans bombed Pearl Harbor—but how do campus sororities defend *their* pride?

**FEATURE, PAGE 16**



# Bears face UBC in battle of unbeatens

Soccer team puts six-game undefeated streak on the line on road trip to the west coast this weekend

NICK FROST  
Sports Writer

After finishing last weekend's action with their third win-tie split in a row, the Golden Bears soccer team will be looking for a change of fortunes in the upcoming weekend series: a west-coast road swing against the UBC Thunderbirds and Victoria Vikes.

The fact that the Bears haven't been able to produce two wins in a week-end series thus far has yet to concern Golden Bears head coach Len Vickery. While he doesn't believe that his team has any serious detriments, he still views them as a continuous work-in-progress.

"Well, I don't know if we're necessarily having any issues—we're definitely not firing on all cylinders all the time," Vickery admitted. "With all credit to the teams that we've played—on each and every weekend we've played two tough opponents—to try and get two wins is asking a lot. We're a squad that's slowly coming together; we didn't come out of the gate as quickly as we would've liked, but we're getting better week by week. The teams that we've tied this year have played strong games, and that's reflective of their placement in the Canada West standings right now."

Some possible good news for the Golden Bears could come with the return of Mark Korthuis. Last year's Canada West MVP suffered a groin injury this past weekend against Trinity Western; however, while it's not definite, the team is still optimistic that he could return to action without missing any more time.

"Hopefully, with some aggressive physiotherapy this week, we can, at least, try and get Mark back in the lineup this weekend," Vickery said.

Saturday's action sees Alberta face their toughest challenge to date: the top-ranked Thunderbirds (3-0-2). While the task does seem daunting, Vickery believes that this match will



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS LEG? Midfielder Junior Castrillion-Rendon and the Bears face a pair of tough BC teams.

provide an opportunity to display how well his team has developed so far this year.

"They're the reigning CIS Champions, and they are ranked number one for a reason," Vickery said. "From their early results, they've come by them honestly, so it's a real opportunity for us to show how much we've progressed since the start of the season. Without a doubt, it's going to be a truly competitive game. We have to be just as strong defensively as we

have been in each game thus far, and generate a little bit of offence to put them on their heels and get the kind of result that we're looking for."

In the second half of the BC road trip, the Bears will face the University of Victoria Vikes (2-2-1). Though Saturday's game may appear to be the more challenging of the two, it definitely doesn't mean that Alberta will be taking the Vikes lightly.

"The challenge of the Canada West Conference, as always, is that you have

to play two tough opponents back-to-back. Even anticipating a drop-off in performance from Saturday to Sunday, it's usually the team that drops off the least that prevails. Victoria, unquestionably, will be big, strong and very well organized. So, it's going to be a huge challenge as well."

The Golden Bears will take to the field Saturday at 3pm at Thunderbird Stadium in Vancouver, and then again on Sunday at 2pm at the University of Victoria.

## SPORTS SHORTS

Compiled by Paul Owen  
and Mike Kendrick

### Hockey

The Pandas head to the University of Toronto for a weekend of exhibition play. Friday afternoon at 3:15pm, they take on the University of Ottawa GeeGees. They go again at the same time the next day, taking on the host Varsity Blues. They'll wrap up the weekend Sunday at 11am when they face off against the University of McGill Martlets. It will be the first CIS competition for the Pandas, who beat down SAIT 6-1 and 6-4 in a pair of games this past weekend. It should be noted that the Pandas gave up all four of those goals in the third period, probably a product of them not putting a goalie in. I can't see any other way SAIT got four goals in a period. I can't see any other way SAIT got four shots on goal in a period.

### Field Hockey

After a 1-1-1 opening tournament in Calgary, the defending national champion Pandas will visit the University of Victoria for the second of three Canada West regular season tournaments. Their opponents will be the same as last weekend, as the Pandas will face the host Vikes at 4pm on Friday, follow that up against the UBC Thunderbirds on Saturday at 11am, and finish off against the Calgary Dinos at 11am on Sunday.

### Cross-Country

Ian Manyfingers won the Cougar Trot Open on 16 September in Regina with a time of 26:26 over the 8km course. Both the Bears and Pandas will head to Victoria this weekend for a meet hosted by the Vikes.

### Shorts

Editor-in-Chief Matt Frehner has abandoned the shorts for the snug fit of white boxer-briefs today. Why he has done this is anyone's guess, but perhaps it has something to do with the man's strange affinity for ball sweat.

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MARIA BOWLER, THE MANITOBIAN (CUP)  
RUMB LE YOUNG MAN, RUMBLE Cornerback Jason James returns a kick in the Bears' 29-14 loss to Manitoba last week.

# Clan try to shake moniker of 'weakest team' versus Bears

Team that can't score meets the team that's allowed 182 points in three games

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI  
Sports Staff

There's the good, the bad and the ugly, and in CIS football this year nothing has been uglier than the Simon Fraser University Clan. Three games into the season, the Clan haven't lost a game by fewer than 37 points, have amassed only 680 yards of total offence and have been described by University of Manitoba head coach Brian Dobie as "the weakest team" he's seen in eleven years in Canada West. An assessment even the SFU head coach has a hard time disputing.

"Well ... That's a ... [Dobie's] entitled to his opinion and does it make him right? I don't know," first-year Clan head coach and former Golden Bears offensive coordinator Frank Boehres said. "It's one of those things that I don't take personally, I just believe in what we've got going, the coaches I've got and the players I've got, and we're marching forward."

Though not exactly a ringing defence of his troubled squad, things aren't all bad for the Clan (0-3), as they'll host an Alberta (2-2) team on Sunday that's struggling and may have lost its most dangerous weapon—running back Tendayi Jozzy—to an injury. With it unlikely that Jozzy, the CIS rushing leader, will be able to

play this weekend, backup running back Matt Jarvis will need to have a big game—something he's shown he's capable of, rushing for 76 yards on just 13 carries this season.

"We prepare everyday so we can beat our opponents, and that doesn't change whether it's Manitoba or Alberta or if certain players are out," Boehres said. "Canada West is a tough conference and we know that and we just trust the process that we're getting better and we're working on the right things and we'll let the games handle themselves."

While SFU is trying to put on a brave face, this season's struggles mark rock-bottom for a program that was among the upper-echelon of CIS just four seasons ago when they defeated the Bears in the Hardy Cup final. Since capturing that Canada West title, the Clan have dropped to CIS infamy thanks to their 3-16 record over the past three seasons, and also the only team to remotely challenge the 2001 edition of the Mount Allison Mounties, who lost one game 105-0, for the title of the worst team ever in Canadian university football.

Despite all of SFU's struggles, the Bears won't be taking them lightly according to their head coach Jerry Friesen, who had his share of tough

seasons early in his tenure as Alberta's bench boss and had some sympathy for his former assistant's struggles in the lower mainland.

"It's a matter of patience, and the patience lasts years here [in CIS football] because you don't have that immediate change like you do at the professional level, where you can bring players in and out," Friesen, who led Alberta to a 1-7 record in 2002. "Here it goes in relation to recruiting years and now for coach Boehres, he's had a tough time and it's just a matter of him staying on track and being patient."

"There may be tendency to take them easy, but that's something that, as coaches, we have to make sure that we don't let that happen," Friesen added. "That's just a part of mental preparation and the focus is, like it's every game, more on what we do versus what our opponents do. We've got to improve on several aspects of our game, which we control and now it's just a matter of finding out to see what we have to do against SFU."

While it will be hard for fans to see if the Bears join the parade of teams thumping the Clan this season as the game is at SFU, you'll still be able to catch every minute of SFU futility live at 8pm Sunday, 1 October on the TEAM 1260.



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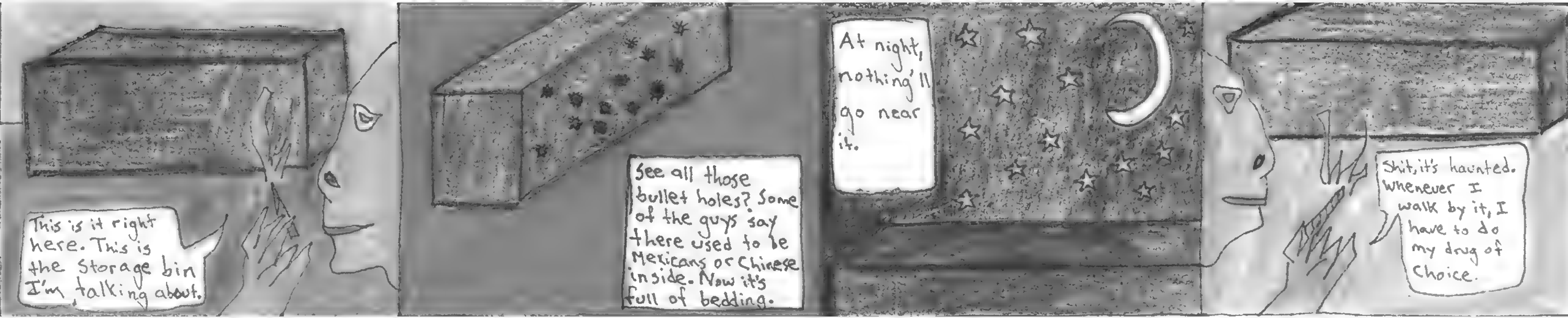
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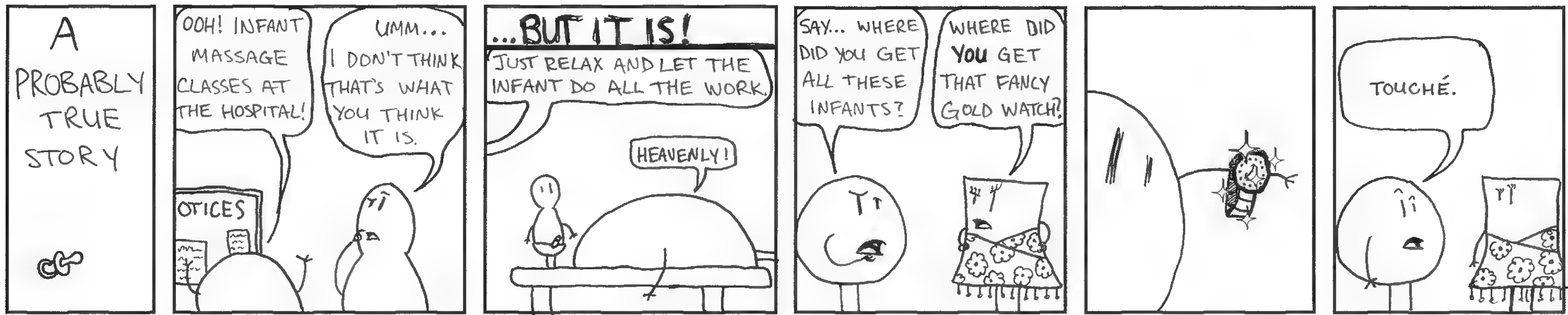


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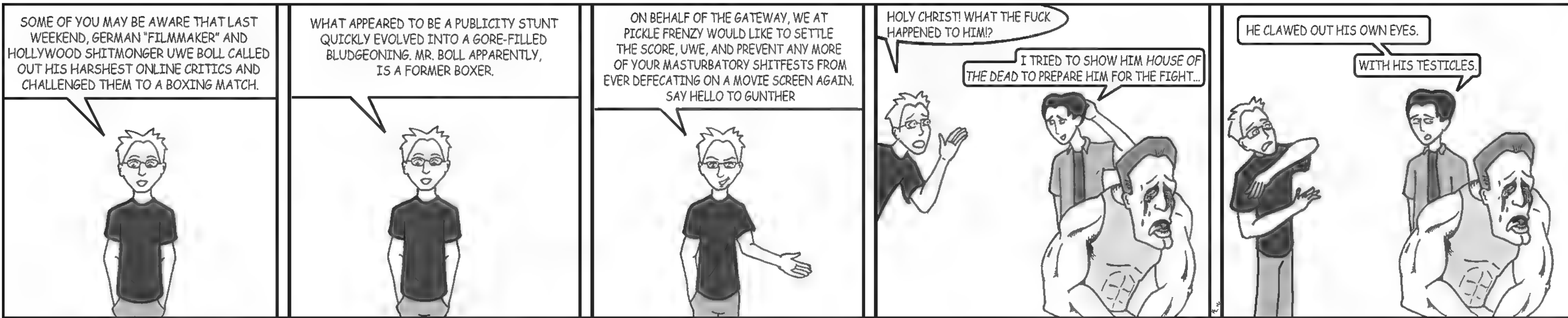
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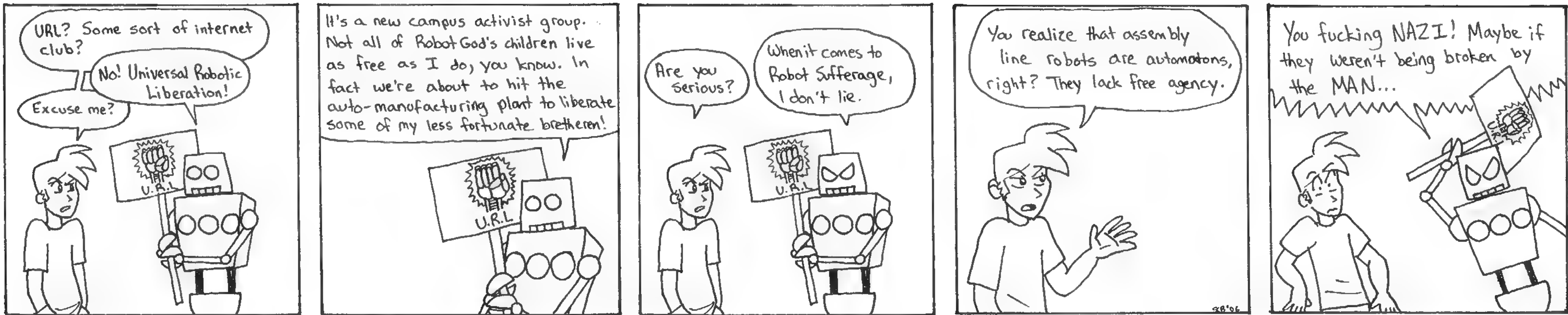
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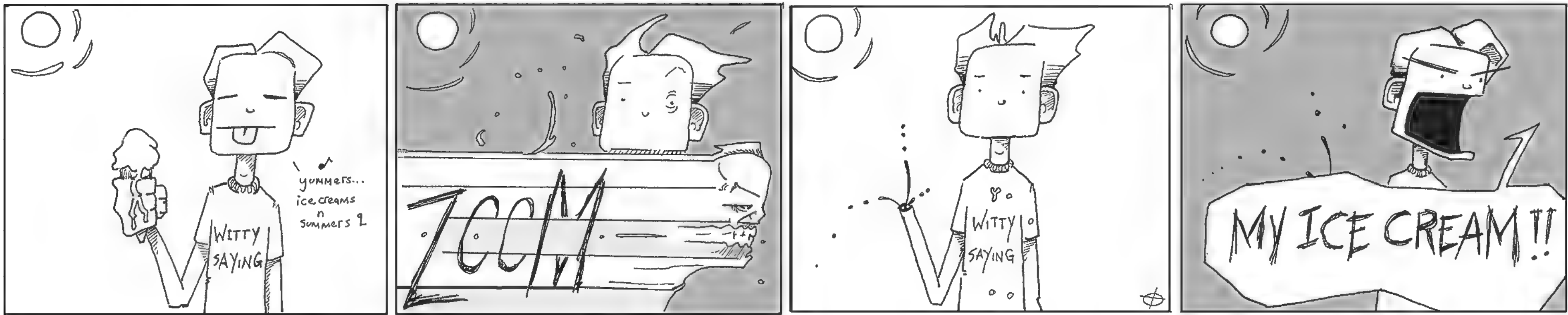
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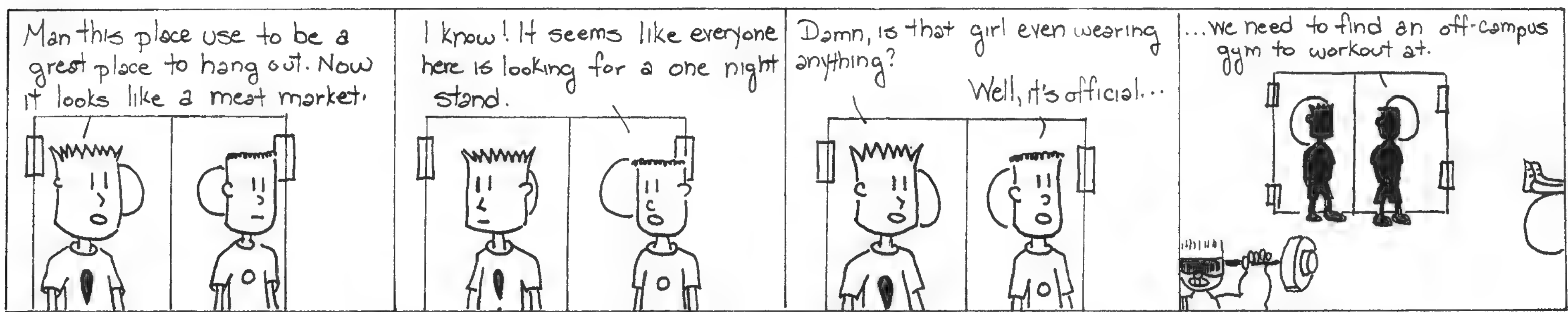
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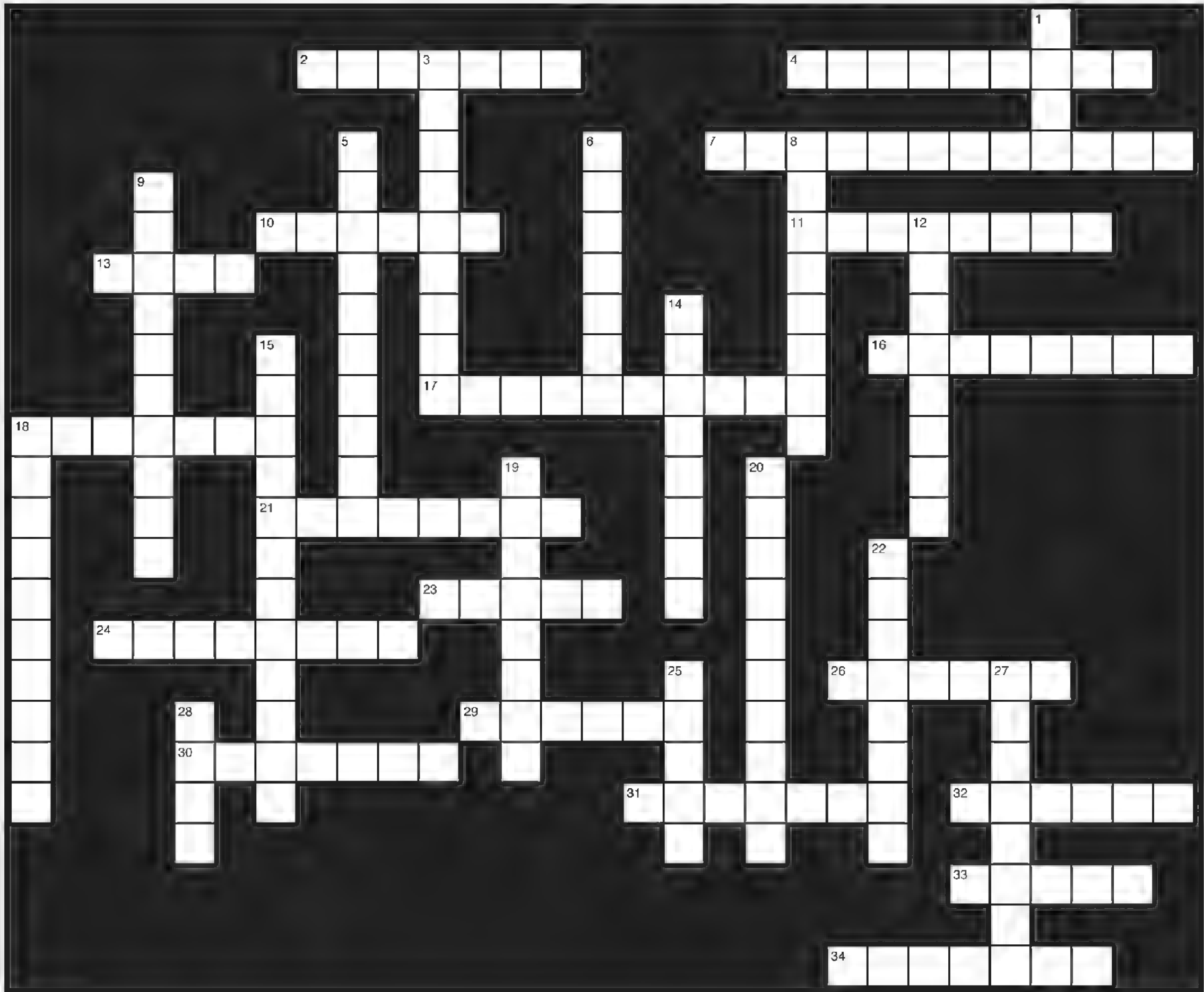


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- Across**
2. The force that pulls masses towards each other.  
4. A line or curve that the graph or a relation approaches more and more closely the further the graph is followed.  
7. The study of triangles, with emphasis on calculations dealing with the length of sides and the measures of angles.  
10. Any quantity that can be measured with a single real number, such as temperature or length.  
11. The branch of mathematics dealing with limits, derivatives and power series.  
13. A quadrilateral with two pairs of adjacent sides that are congruent.  
16. The study of two- and three-dimensional figures.  
17. A line that passes through at least two points of a curve. (Two words.)  
18. The symbol used to indicate square roots.  
21. All positive and negative whole numbers, including zero.  
23. The word for a set of points that form a geometric figure or graph.  
24. The result of dividing two numbers or expressions.  
26. In reference to a geometric figure with no indentations.  
29. The set of values of the independent variable for which a function or relation is defined.  
30. The eight regions into which three dimensional space is divided by the x-, y- and z-axes.  
31. The mathematics of working with variables.

32. A number that can be written as 1 followed by a hundred zeros.  
33. A curve shaped like a spring.  
34. A figure that is self-similar; no matter how far away you zoom in on the figure, the portion you look at still looks like the original figure.
- Down**
1. A three dimensional figure with a single base tapering to an apex.  
3. Quantities that may change or take on different values.  
5. A horizontal shift for a periodic function.  
6. A geometric figure with nine sides.  
8. The center of a polygon's inscribed circle.  
9. Prime numbers that are two apart from each other, such as 3 and 5. (Two words.)  
12. The curve naturally formed by a slack rope hanging between two fixed points.  
14. A transformation in which a figure grows larger.  
15. How many times a particular number is a zero for a given polynomial.  
18. A 90° angle. (two words)  
19. 1/2 is an example of this.  
20. A structure used to find the prime factorization of a positive integer. (Two words.)  
22. A polynomial with two terms which are not like terms.  
25. Two rays that share a common midpoint, usually measured in degrees or radians.  
27. The 3 in the expression 4<sup>3</sup>.  
28. The physics term for the amount of energy required to move an object over a given path subject to a given force.

# CROSSWORD



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The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, Jmax PowerLook 1000 flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout, Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, and Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files. All content is printed directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENCE, Joanna, Kepler, and Whitney. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper and we owe her dearly, though not in that way. The Gateway's games of chance are Mario's Missing and Mario's Time Machine.

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COUNCIL FORUM

Compiled by Scott Lilwall

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 3 October.

RESIGNATIONS

Council opened last night with the news that two councillors, John Chandler representing Arts and Greg German representing science, were resigning from their posts in Council. A motion was brought forward to retroactively remove German from his seat on the Council Advisory Committee (CAC). The motion would prevent the councillor from collecting remuneration for the first trimester of the year. The motion passed, and German was removed from the CAC.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL PRESENTS ...

Presentations were next for the evening, with Students' Union President Samantha Power stepping up to speak on a number of issues. Power updated Council on the ongoing negotiations among the City of Edmonton, the University of Alberta Administration and the SU regarding the U-Pass. She explained that there would have to be a referendum before students on the issue and, depending on the outcome, the project could begin as early as Fall semester 2007.

She then stated that the SU should

lobby to make undergraduate issues a greater budget priority for the U of A.

Power went on to stress the need for a firm process when it came to reviewing and administering mandatory fees charged to students. She finished up by urging Council to focus more on external matters that affected students as a whole, instead of spending meetings debating internal policy and bylaw matters.

Councillor Chris Samuel was up next, with a speech on the importance of political policies voted on by Council. Amid automotive metaphors and quoting Jean-Luc Picard, Samuel argued that policy should be seen as representing the will of U of A's student body.

The final presentation was put on by the Audit Committee, on ideas for restructuring the way that the committee reviewed dedicated fee units. A couple of recommendations were made to make the committee more efficient in its task.

NOMINATIONS

After the presentations, Council moved on to nominations, looking to fill open seats on a variety of committees. During the first round of nominations, for the University Policy Committee (UPC), a motion was brought up to postpone appointed members until after the upcoming by-election, to allow new councillors a chance to fill the seats. After lengthy debate, the motion was defeated, and the nominations continued.

Members were appointed to the UPC, the Grant Advisory Council and

the CAC. With the addition of new members, the CAC once again reached enough councillors to continue meetings, which had been put on hold since the resignations during the summer months caused the group's membership to plummet. (Earlier in the meeting, the Speaker told Council that he found the number of empty seats on the CAC to be an embarrassment.)

MUCH ADO ABOUT TOBACCO

When nominations finished, Council considered a motion to donate the proceeds of tobacco sales from the Powerplant to the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission. This was following a letter written by former science councillor Stephen Kirkham, who requested that the total revenues from tobacco sales in the 'Plant after the ban on selling cigarettes in SU-run businesses came into effect.

An amendment was quickly brought forward, suggesting that the money instead be donated to a relevant, on-campus cause, such as the Cross Cancer Institute. After debating the usefulness of a \$64 donation to such a group, and the amendment was withdrawn.

Another amendment was offered, one that would instead donate the total revenue gained from the sales, a total of over \$300, to AADAC. Supporters argued that it would be more principled to donate the entire amount, while critics felt it would not accomplish much more. The amendments were eventually defeated, and the main motion to give the \$64 to AADAC was passed.

QUESTION PERIOD

After the nominations were finished, Council moved on to Question Period.

A question directed at Power asked why there were no posters around campus to promote the upcoming by-election to fill empty seats on Council. Power responded that she didn't know why there was a lack in promotion, but she would refer the question to Chief Returning Officer Rachel Woynorowski and provide an answer at a later date.

Another question asked about the state of the computer lab in the basement of the Students' Union Building, as there were concerns about the quality of the machines. Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Chris Cunningham said that the question hadn't been brought before Council before, but he would look into it.

Another question was sent Cunningham's way, this time about if the redesign of the Powerplant into a buffet and coffee shop was making any difference in the business's finances. Cunningham noted that the buffet seemed to be quite busy over the day, he added that the month's financial statements wouldn't be released until the end of September, and even then, it would be too early to see any real trend in patronage.

A question about Council's stance on business dealings with Coca-Cola was asked of Power. She said that a new proposal had been brought forward by the company over the summer. It had been reviewed by the SU Executive, and the matter would be brought forward to Council at the next meeting.

STREETERS

Toronto Pearson Airport has raised their airport fees by five dollars to fund renovations.

Will this affect your willingness to travel to Toronto?



Sarah Parmley  
Agriculture V



Alan Paone  
Engineering I



Lacey McNally  
Education II



Steve Carter  
Science II

Well, I guess if they need upgrading, \$5 isn't all that much.

Probably not. Asking customers to subsidize the cost of renovations—there's nothing wrong with that. \$5 to buy a prettier airport isn't all that much, especially with the cost of air travel right now, where it can be near \$400 for a trip. I mean, if you were flying jetsgo when it was still around, and tickets were \$40, then \$5 could make a difference.

Not really. I mean, I avoid Toronto airport at all costs, because it's pretty much the worst airport in Canada. But when you're paying \$700 to fly, then no, it's not that much.

No, because my mother used to work for Air Canada. We still have to pay taxes, but a lot of it's a lot cheaper, so I'm not too worried about it.

Compiled and photographed by Scott Lilwall and Krystina Sulatycki





# Shortage of info tech workers leaves employers disconnected

EDMON ROTEA  
News Staff

Even with a thriving resource-based economy, a low unemployment rate, and lucrative job opportunities, the "Alberta Advantage" has proven to be a disadvantage for some other industries—especially for the information technology (IT) sector.

Combined with rising wages, record-low enrolment in IT postsecondary programs, and negative perceptions in society of IT careers, the demand for qualified IT professionals already greatly outnumbers supply. The North American Computing Research Association predicts that there will be a shortage of 100 000 IT-related jobs by the year 2012.

"It's becoming more difficult to find new people with the right qualifications. We're even having trouble recruiting summer students and interns. This year, we will likely be looking to locations outside Edmonton to find new hires to the company," explained Fraser Gallop, President of Onware Software Corporation, a local University of Alberta spin-off company that develops online event management software.

With an abundance of well-paid employment opportunities, especially in the trades and the oil/gas industry, some IT employers are having difficulty recruiting and retaining existing employees.

"The other problem that we're facing is that retail jobs are paying well above the minimum wage. This is forcing us to raise salaries to retain our current staff," Gallop said. "We have interviewed people that expect more than double the salary that we're willing to pay," he said, adding that Onware even supplements salaries with stock options to prevent employee turnover and attract new employees.

The IT shortage may also be the result of low rates of enrolment in postsecondary IT programs, including the U of A's Computing Science program.

"Beginning in about the year 2001, we started noticing a decline across North America in students going into Computing Science, and over the years that decline accelerated," explained Dr Jonathan Schaeffer, chair for the Department of Computing Science, last Tuesday at a career forum for computer science students.

"Enrolment in first-year is about

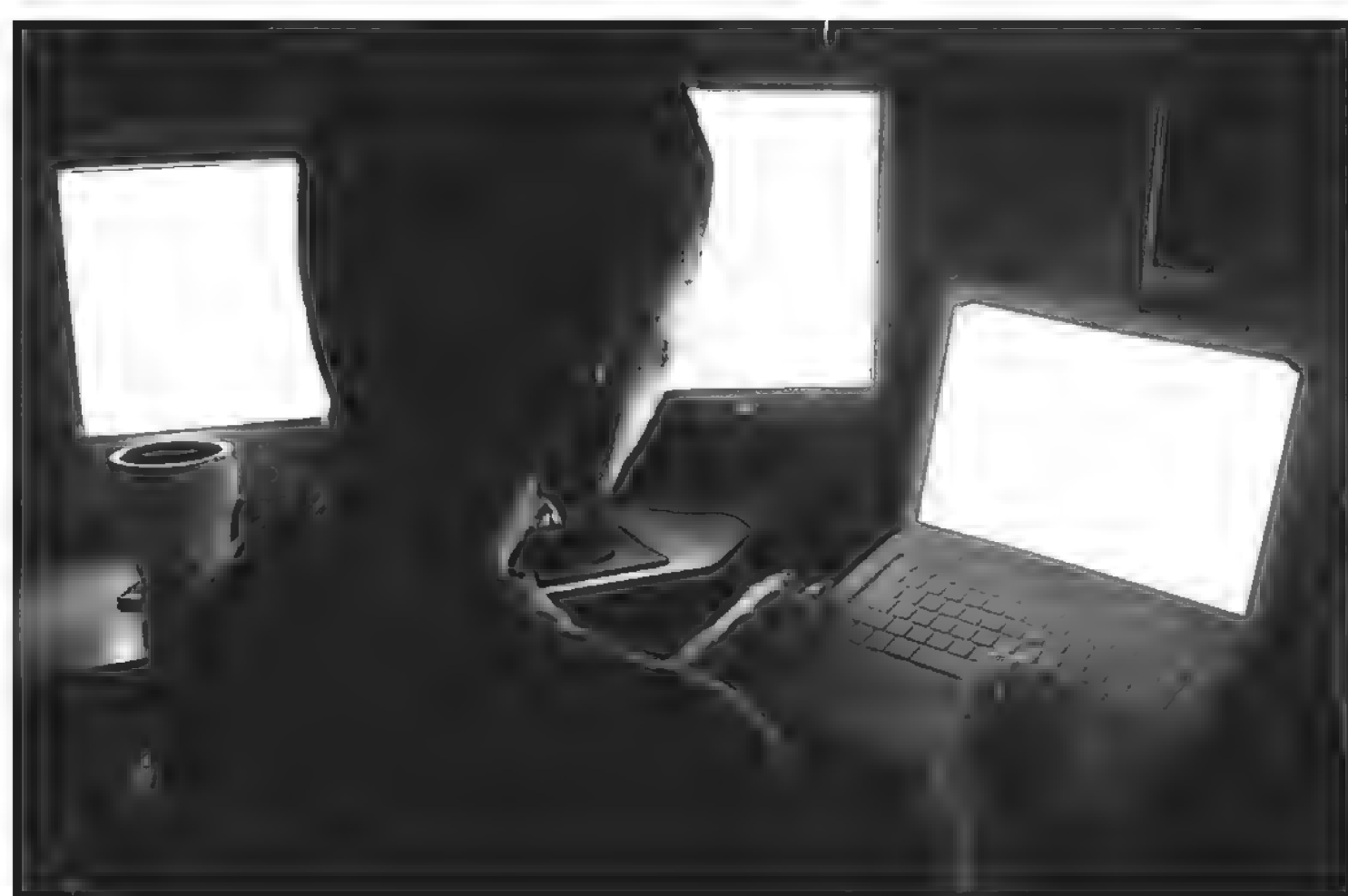


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: JAMES LEUNG

**ALL WORK, NO PLAY** Negative IT job stereotypes leading to fewer recruits.

25 per cent of what it was five years ago," Schaeffer said. "Last year was the last of the big graduating classes—we graduated about 140 people in Computing Science. I think this year we'll probably have about 40 [graduates]."

While enrolment and demand for IT postsecondary programs saw a considerable drop following the dot-com bust at the start of the decade, Schaeffer also believes that negative perceptions of computing science and IT careers may be a deterrent to enrolment—especially among high-school students.

"Parents are discouraging students. Parents will read about companies like Nortel and other unemployed computer scientists. They'll hear about outsourcing to India—that was true a few years ago, but it's not true now. The job market is bigger than it ever was—greater than the peak of the dot-com era," he said.

Schaeffer believes that parents, teachers and high-school guidance counsellors need to be better informed and educated about the importance and demand for IT careers. To address this concern, the Department of Computing Science has hosted youth summer camps, paid high school internships, tours, conferences with teacher and private industry, and even a new advertising campaign to attract applicants.

Yet, negative stereotypes of computer science and IT careers still exist amongst greater society.

"It's a credibility problem, that computer scientists are perceived as more individual workers as opposed to team workers—that they're working long hours and they're nerdy hackers. Those kind of connotations hurt

the field; women for example don't like those negative connotations. The number of females going into computing [sciences] has seen even a more dramatic drop in the last few years," Schaeffer said.

But new initiatives to attract women stress the value of an IT career.

"Through joining WISEST—Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology—in high school, I was introduced into the world of computing sciences. I subsequently decided to follow that for my university career," explained computer science student Leah Hackman.

Despite the looming shortage, at least today's computer science students will have a selection of job opportunities to choose from.

"The number of employers that contact us in the hope of finding an intern has been growing steadily over the past three or four years, to the point where our internship students now have considerable choice when it comes to deciding where to work," said Dr Ryan Hayward, director of the student internship program for the Department of Computing Science.

When asked about the possibility of companies outsourcing more white-collar IT jobs and computer programming jobs to foreign companies, in order to mitigate the IT worker shortage, Schaeffer remains optimistic that opportunity will still abound in Canada.

"The real demand is for computer scientists—people who understand the technology well enough that they can develop the leading edge products that Canadian companies want to develop," Schaeffer concluded.

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## Research discourages using public arenas for storage of dead bodies

PANDEMIC • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Right now the discussion is at what point do we start to initiate an action plan."

Yonge also explained that, while Capital Health's Medical Officer of Health has the legal ability to shut the University down and tell Administration what to do, he has throughout deliberations indicated he wants a relationship where he consults with and works with the University. And to date the University and Capital Health only have one memorandum of understanding completed—regarding the care of dead bodies and where and where not to store them.

"The capability of storing dead bodies in the province is actually quite low and so we do have a lot of facilities for this [but] from past readings and research Capital Health knows they cannot use a [hockey] arena for the storage of a dead body ... that would be typical ... but after that has happened people refuse to use that recreational facility, and rightly so," Yonge said.

Drawing from past experiences, Yonge outlined the Committee's desire to have future chaotic events handled as calmly as possible.

"The meningitis [outbreak] was a huge scare for us—it killed young

people," Yonge said. "[And the next time a pandemic hits] we don't want people panicking. We want people being level headed, making really good decisions [and] working together."

But while talking about the worst-case scenario can be an eerie process, Omer views the work and planning being done by the Public Health Response Committee as reassuring.

"It's a really scary process, but what's really satisfying in my mind is that the University really is mobilizing on this topic and really is looking at what is best for students [and staff]," Omer said.

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# Privacy policies problematic for Ontario postsecondaries

LAURA CARLSON  
The Cord Weekly

WATERLOO, ONT (CUP)—Universities in Ontario have been brought under a provincial privacy act that gives students the right to keep their names private, and places new constraints on everything from attendance forms to how marks are posted.

Communication Studies professor Dr Gregory Cameron, at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, recognizes the effect the legislation has on his job.

Although he agreed that “government employees can’t be the vehicle by which other people would get information,” he said it’s causing major inconveniences in the classroom.

“In order for [professors] to do our job, we have to know what students’ names are,” Cameron said. “If [the privacy law] is impairing our ability to do our job, we’ll have to be exempted.”

Effective 10 June, universities were brought under the Province’s Freedom

of Information and Privacy Act. Although the legislation has been in place for over 18 years, universities had never been required to fully comply.

Under the act, several provisions outline the way both professors and students are able to conduct themselves in a university setting.

“The act ensures that [personal information] can’t be given to everybody else when you don’t want it out there,” said John Metcalfe, Laurier’s new privacy officer.

To guarantee such protection, students have the right to keep their names private from others. This prohibits university administration and staff, without consent, from publicly displaying any documents that contain a student’s name.

As a result, a list of individuals who have student loans available for pick up can’t be posted, and students can’t find other students on the e-mail directory.

Professors are also not allowed to post marks, nor are they permitted to create a pile for students to pick up assignments.

It’s also recommended that

professors refer to students by their first names. Students cannot be asked to sign an attendance sheet that lists both first and last names.

While Laurier University is still looking into what exactly it can and can’t do, Metcalfe said, “We’ve identified things that aren’t good practices. Like all laws, there is an evolution in how it’s applied.”

Metcalfe also said that the Act can be difficult to uphold in a university setting.

“A university is a community of learners. You come to university not to be anonymous, but to explore your identity. [The Act] isn’t a perfect fit with this.”

Bob Spence, from the provincial office of General Information and Privacy Commission, explained that Ontario’s privacy commissioner has been pushing for this legislation to be put into effect at universities for several years now.

“The act is not new,” said Spence. “It has been implemented at colleges in Ontario and universities in other provinces for years, and it’s just natural for [Ontario] universities to follow.”

# Report calls for changes to sexual harassment policy at Memorial U

SHEENA GOODYEAR  
The Muse

ST JOHN’S, NFLD (CUP)—A report conducted in response to allegations of an unsupportive and unwelcoming environment at Memorial University has found a “masculine culture” at the Saint John’s, Newfoundland, school.

Dr Shirley Katz, an associate professor of humanities at York University and member of the Bar of Ontario, conducted personal interviews, group meetings, telephone interviews, e-mail correspondence and held an open forum.

“While some interviewed emphasized a positive environment, many of those interviewed reported evidence of a serious malaise and masculine culture,” the report said.

The study was completed in response to concerns about the experiences of Deepa Khosla, a political science professor who had previously taught at the University.

Khosla passed away in November 2005 from a brain hemorrhage caused by a brain aneurysm. Following her death, the University received messages from her family and colleagues, which alleged that she had felt a lack of support for her safety, and there existed an unwelcoming environment for women at Memorial.

Before her death, Khosla wrote letter to Axel Meisen, President of Memorial University, which claimed that she had received unwanted attention from a male graduate student.

The student allegedly approached Khosla on the street, knew her name, asked her to go out for coffee after she had already declined, and tried to register for one of her course despite having already taken the class with another professor.

At a 13 September briefing about Katz’s report, Meisen said it concluded

interactions between Khosla and the student “were brief and apparently benign.”

“Dr Katz found that the units within the University that were approached by Dr Khosla and the administrators who approached her responded with alacrity and utter good faith,” said Meisen.

Although the report also said the Administration concluded the student posed no threat to Khosla, it did conclude that her concerns grew over time because she couldn’t find out the degree of risk the student posed.

Khosla’s sisters, Prabha and Meenal, say the Administration should have told Khosla the student wasn’t a threat.

“If they knew that the student was not a threat, then why was she never, ever, ever, told that?” Prabha Khosla said. “Isn’t that one of the appropriate things they should have done? I mean, she was an adult, she’s a grown-up. If they had said that and validated it, it would have reduced a lot of the stress and anxiety that she was experiencing.”

Seeing the full report would help them put the information in context, say the sisters.

The full report remains to be released publicly. The university is searching for someone to edit out contentious personal information contained in the pages.

“If we want to release the report, in order to be in compliance with the laws of the province, the information has to be ... blacked out,” Meisen said. “This isn’t a discretionary matter on behalf of the University or anybody else. This is a legal obligation.”

As of yet, who will edit the report is unknown, but Meisen assures they will be independent from the University and have expertise in privacy legislation.

Despite finding little evidence of harassment in Khosla’s case, Katz

outlined a number of recommendations for improving the University’s climate for women.

The report suggested more staff training sessions about harassment issues and a thorough review of policies and procedures related to cases of sexual harassment. Meisen says many of the recommendations are already being implemented.

“I thought the forum was a good beginning,” said Jean Guthrie, a women’s studies professor.

She said she was happy to hear the promise of working groups that will probe the recommendations of the report, review policies and write new guidelines.

“I’m also very pleased to hear that that review is already underway in many places,” she said.

However, Guthrie says the University needs to tread carefully when selecting people to review those policies.

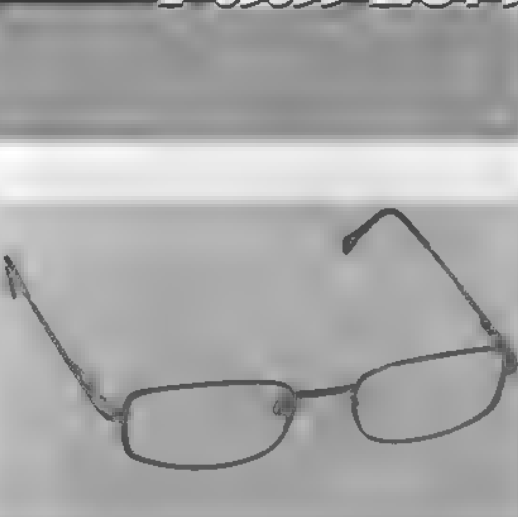
“Who’s going to be rewriting these policies and procedures? With references to what principles of justice? With reference to what assumptions? Are we going to turn over the review of this masculinist environment, as it has been described, to the people that have always managed and framed policy in the past, and who may see through a particular set of lenses?” Guthrie said.

Meanwhile, Prabha Khosla worries that the report doesn’t address all of the concerns with she has about the atmosphere of the University.

“There’s nothing in the briefing that makes clear what’s going to happen to all the men who are the ones who were involved in inappropriate behaviour,” she said.

Meisen said anyone named in the report would be dealt with in accordance with the University’s harassment procedures. As far as he knows, nobody has made a formal complaint.

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## Orientation

### Job Posting – Orientation Programs Coordinator

<b>DEADLINE</b>	Monday, October 2nd at 12pm (noon) at 0-26 SUB
<b>TERM</b>	October 10th, 2006 – September 30th, 2007
<b>HOURS AND REMUNERATION</b>	<p><b>October</b> Minimum 25 hours per week; \$813/month (pro-rated).</p> <p><b>November to April, and September</b> Minimum 25 hours/ week; \$1066/ month</p> <p><b>May to August</b> Minimum 35 hours/ week; \$1302/ month.</p>
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Reporting to the CSD Manager – New Student Programs, the Orientation Programs Coordinator is responsible for, but not limited to, recruitment, selection and training of Orientation Presenters; development of Orientation programs; development of the Orientation Times (the Orientation brochure for incoming students); development of content for the Orientation website.

A complete job description and application information can be found at [www.su.ualberta.ca/work/sujobs.html](http://www.su.ualberta.ca/work/sujobs.html)

 Applicants must be undergraduate students, having paid their Students' Union fees in full.

*We thank in advance all applicants, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.*



## Today's students hooked on sonics

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A FIRM BELIEVER IN THE saying "readers make writers." Like any occupation that involves copious amounts of practice, writing, too, requires its fair share of training.

Recently, the University of Alberta has implemented a comprehensive six-class, 18-hour course entitled "Writing for University" that covers various aspects of essay writing. It's aimed at high-school graduates who've received a grade of less than 70 per cent in English 30.

This is an excellent solution for those who lack essential writing skills; after all, writing isn't everyone's bag, and the course is sure to boost confidence levels in those who require it. However, wherever a brilliant answer is born, there must have been a problem to begin with.

Just the other day, my brother asked me whether or not he could download *Pride and Prejudice* so he wouldn't have to read it for his English class. More and more, people are opting to get their daily news via Podcasts, as well as listening to the exciting adventures of Mr Harry Potter via audiobooks on to their iPod.

For many people, their lives are way too busy to sit, have a cup of coffee and read the paper every day. They need to be able to get the latest scoop as they drive to work, one hand on the wheel and the other holding a travel mug. We students want to listen to our textbooks while we ride the bus in the morning, then work our part-time jobs or maybe watch some television when we get home from school. In other words, we don't read media anymore, we just *listen* to it.

*Dose* was one of those daily commuter rags that tried to tackle this problem by creating a free daily "paper," with short snippets of articles that could be read within a matter of seconds. Sadly, *Dose* failed, mainly because there wasn't any future in print media.

The 26 August issue of the *Economist* tackled this topic, stating that Internet-based information is becoming more and more accessible and popular; this in turn creates a huge influx of advertisers vying for digital space rather than the more palpable ink-on-paper medium. As a result, paying for advertisements in newspapers is becoming less and less beneficial.

Because high-school kids with their iPods aren't reading print media—or anything else printed for that matter—they're, in a sense, no longer learning to write either, and as a result, programs such as "Writing for University" need to be implemented. There's only so much a high-school teacher can do to instruct a student about the English language. Writing requires practice, and part of that practice includes reading: spelling skills come about as a result of sight recognition and familiarity, as does syntax and style.

With the shift from print to digital media and from visual to auditory information gathering, writing is becoming—and will continue to become—a lost art. Newspapers and books may have survived the first blow from the advent of television, but it's unlikely that they'll come out in one piece this time around. As a result, it's doubtful that current and future students' writing skills will be salvageable.

At the moment, our society values technology and medicine more than the fine arts, but I don't think this is the cause for declining literary skills amongst students these days. Society is simply shifting towards a new era. The question, then, is whether or not the shift from visual to audio information is a good thing. Technology may make our lives easier, but it also tends to breed a significant amount of laziness in its users. For me, I'm going to stick to reading rather than listening to Podcasts, not because it gives me a healthy aura of verbosity, but because it provides me with a weapon that everyone else simply passes by.

AMANDA ASH  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

## To the *Deutsche Oper*

Rue the day Mozart  
Can't play because terrorists  
Like to blow stuff up

MATT FREHNER  
Poet

## JOE VOLPE:



## NECROMANCER

## LETTERS

### Scrooge-like student salaries don't suffice

If the University wants to attract and keep students, the least they can do is start by paying their graduate students the minimum pay rates specified in the Graduate Student Collective Bargaining Agreement (re: U of A focuses on 'top student' market," 26 September). That document states that any graduate student who works 36 hours or more per week is entitled to \$1550 per month in compensation. However, there's currently nothing stopping professors from paying students for fewer hours than they actually work. I'm currently in a situation where I've consistently worked more than 36 hours in a week, and yet I only get paid for 27. Because I'm above the minimum pay rate for 27 hours, I have been told I have no recourse to get my pay increased.

Furthermore, should I attempt to supplement my paltry salary by taking a teaching assistant position, my base salary will be decreased by an amount equal to my TA pay. So, for example, if I took a four-hour marking job that pays \$516 per month, my \$1160 research salary will be reduced to \$644, leaving my total compensation unchanged. So, for the 36 hours that I work on research, I will get paid a staggering \$4.50 per hour instead of the \$10.75 per hour I should be entitled to. Not all professors do this, but under the current Collective Bargaining Agreement, there is nothing to prevent it. In my case, I've been assured that it will happen.

According to the Collective Bargaining Agreement I'm being paid in "intangible benefits." It's a good thing my parents accept "intangible benefits" in lieu of rent, because I haven't found anybody else that would.

PHILLIP A MARSHALL  
Graduate Studies

### Letters fail to resolve Middle East conflict

Let me first say that I support no operation that targets civilians, no matter who it is committed by. That being said, it's faulty to put the blame squarely on one side for what happened in Qana (re: "Second-hand account too subjective as well," 26 September).

Reconnaissance video clearly shows that the building hit was in close proximity to a Katyusha launcher, so while Benjamin [Cleveland] is lecturing me on international law, I would direct him to the articles prohibiting the use of human shields. The 28 dead in Qana reported by Human Rights Watch (contrary to the initial reports of 60 that Benjamin is citing) should have been avoided by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], but also could have been avoided if Hezbollah cared more about innocent Lebanese than they did [about] killing Israelis. A clear distinction must be made between those intentionally targeting civilians, and those who spend significant effort minimizing collateral damage.

Again, I would suggest that before Benjamin labels someone a liar, he do the necessary research that would show the facts. Benjamin's assertion

that Hezbollah's Katyusha Rocket fire was in response to the initial Israeli artillery fire is factually incorrect.

According to the Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, the crisis started around 9am local time, when "Hezbollah launched several rockets from Lebanese territory across the withdrawal line" aimed at the Israeli town of Zarit, while, "In parallel, Hezbollah fighters crossed the Blue Line into Israel and attacked an IDF patrol." These two Hezbollah offences were in fact internationally recognized acts of war on Israel.

I will reiterate the point I made in my last letter, that as a democratic country, the Israeli Defense Forces had a clear mandate to protect its citizens by targeting Hezbollah positions (often in residential neighbourhoods) and cutting off the routes to transport the kidnapped soldiers out of Lebanon. This is an action that we as Canadians would also expect from our Government and Military in the face of an unprovoked attack on our soil from a neighbor.

Benjamin deceptively mentions the failed implementation of UN Resolution 242 (which I support as part of a peace plan) calling for the withdrawal of territory captured in the 1967 War as a failure by Israel, but falters in comprehending the full text of the Resolution. Resolution 242 calls for the withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territories, however it does not call for an unconditional withdrawal. The second, and conveniently rarely mentioned provision of Resolution 242, is that it calls for states to grant the right to "live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts

of force" to go along with the return of occupied land.

Unfortunately, where Resolution 242 runs into a brick wall is that these offers of land return by Israel (1991, 2000) have not been accompanied by a commitment to eliminate the threat of violence on Israelis by Palestinian terrorist groups. In fact, in 2000, Ehud Barak's generous peace offer to the Palestinians was countered by Yasser Arafat with the Second Intifada, spilling more blood on both sides.

So thank you for your offer of help Benjamin, but I will continue to express my opinion using facts to back up my words, while refusing to stoop to half-truths and personal jabs. Maybe this is just the "hypocritical apologist" in me, but I believe that one day Israelis and Palestinians can coexist in two states they can call their own, free from the threat of violence.

LLOYD SUCHET  
Arts III

Israel Affairs Chairman  
Jewish Students Association

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words (ahem), and should include the name, student identification number, program and year of study of the author.



# Globe article just plain Wong



MATT  
FREHNER

“I like to think of Edward and I as sharing a special editors-in-chief bond; as such, I can appreciate that some things will slip through the cracks. But surely an article that links Québécois to a term like “racial purity”—along with all the Third Reich connotations that it entails—should have raised an eyebrow or two.”

As the tune from Broadway’s *Avenue Q* goes, “Everyone’s a little bit racist.” We all notice colour and ethnicity to a certain extent—part of being a civilized human is keeping your random offensive thoughts to yourself. *Globe and Mail* columnist Jan Wong and I are a part of this civil society; the only difference is that one of us knows that a nationally distributed newspaper isn’t the best place to let loose the ethnic stereotypes. Doubly so when claiming, mere days after the shootings at Dawson College, that francophone culture is to blame for the murder of Anastasia De Sousa; in other words, that Kimveer Gill’s pent-up rage was fuelled substantively by being an English speaker in French-speaking Montréal.

Lest it be perceived that I’m misinterpreting Wong’s remarks, or taking her out of context, here are a few of the tastiest, most provocative speculations that were sprinkled amongst an account that reads almost like a work of short fiction rather than a news article: “What many [outside of Montréal] don’t realize is how alienating the decades-long linguistic struggle has been in the once-cosmopolitan city.” “All three [of the Montréal shootings

at postsecondary institutions] were carried out by mentally disturbed individuals. But what is also true is that in all three cases, the perpetrator was not *pure laine*, the argot for a ‘pure’ francophone. Elsewhere, to talk of racial ‘purity’ is repugnant. Not in Québec.”

And finally, “To be sure, Mr Lepine [who murdered 14 at École Polytechnique] hated women, Mr Fabrikant [who shot four people at Concordia University in ’92] hated his engineering colleagues and Mr Gill hated everyone. But all of them had been marginalized, in a society that valued *pure laine*.”

In other words, never mind the fact that Dawson College is an English-speaking CEGEP (*Collège d’Enseignement Général et Professionnel*), or that Gill had a clear infatuation with violence and death; the real issue is that French Québécois are racist and exclusivist to such an extent that it leads some to murder. The absurdity of such an argument barely has a parallel in the annals of Canada’s two solitudes.

These poorly backed comments aren’t simply awful journalism. They’re sensationalist, incendiary and hugely damaging. *Globe and Mail* Editor-in-Chief Edward Greenspon effectively

admitted as much, when he wrote, “We regret that we allowed these words to get into a reported article ... In hindsight, the paragraphs were clearly opinion and not reporting, and should have been removed from the story.”

I like to think of Edward and I as sharing a special editors-in-chief bond; as such, I can appreciate that some things will slip through the cracks. But surely an article that links Québécois to a term like “racial purity”—along with all the Third Reich connotations that it entails—should have raised an eyebrow or two, especially when the subject matter is so recent, frightening and inexplicable.

The printed word carries authority. A publication such as the *Globe and Mail* has the ability to shift our nation’s view on a subject, and must, in turn, weigh carefully the potential ramifications of green-lighting such obvious trash.

Sometimes, Jan, the fact that an article sparks controversy isn’t a good thing—sometimes it’s just poor journalism. As one letter-writer commented, these are the kinds of articles that remind him of why he’s a separatist. Unfortunately for him, Jan Wong lives in Montréal.

## Stakes high for vampirefreaks.com

Online forum unjustly criticized for role its in Dawson College shootings



MICHAEL  
SMITH

triple homicide in Medicine Hat by a 12-year-old girl and her 23-year-old boyfriend was linked to this site, as they were apparently registered users. More recently—and more damning—Dawson College shooter, Kimveer Gill, was revealed to have posted on the site, where he talked about shooting people at schools and called himself the “Angel of Death.”

**That said, just because I might say “I want to bomb the *Toronto Sun*” doesn’t mean I’m going to do it.**

Enter *Toronto Sun* columnist Michele Mandel. Now, I’m already used to enough moronic tirades by closed-minded journalists in our own *Sun*, but the opinion article that appeared in their 17 September edition really grinds my gears. It’s a response to a plan by members of vampirefreaks.com to march in support of the local Children’s Wish Foundation.

In the article, entitled “Stay Home, You Freaks!” Mandel writes that “It’s a match made in hell. They are the members of the website that hosted the Montréal killer, the users who stood by and did nothing as Kimveer Gill boasted of his love of guns and murder. Now vampirefreaks.com wants to improve their blood-soaked image—by hooking up with sick children.”

This shows a fundamental lack of understanding of these types of sites, and makes her article appear entirely

foolish. For her to ask the site’s administrators to somehow police more than 600 000 users is a ridiculous proposition in itself, and then blaming the users for not warning anyone about Gill, though a little more reasonable, is stated in such a way that it destroys her credibility.

Like any such community, the number of stupid threads and flames going around vampirefreaks.com would make an outsider wonder. That said, just because I might say “I want to bomb the *Toronto Sun*” doesn’t mean I’m going to do it.

This isn’t to say that the site is filled with terrorists, but that in such a community, comments such as these aren’t taken seriously. And although they might crack down now, sites like these thrive because administrators don’t attempt to curtail free speech, and instead allow users to discuss what they like and form their own opinions. This peer-centric design makes it unlikely that any big changes to the site will come in light of the negative publicity surrounding the Dawson College shootings.

In any case, Mandel’s argument is made moot by the way she pokes fun at the entire gothic subculture. She even wrote a follow-up for the 24 September issue wherein she claims that she wasn’t trying to be insulting, all the while continuing her haughty and derogatory tone. She even congratulates the vampirefreaks community for raising money for the Montréal Children’s Hospital a week after claiming that their help wasn’t wanted for any such thing.

At least she hasn’t failed convincing me her memory is as bad as her understanding of the Internet.

In the past few years an online trend has emerged as part of the burgeoning new “Web 2.0” movement epitomized by sites like MySpace and the more local Nexopia. The basis behind these communities has existed since Usenet newsgroups debuted in the early days of the ‘Net, but the inclusion of forums, personal pages, private messaging and all sorts of other digital bells and whistles has led to their immense popularity at an unheard-of scale.

There’s nothing inherently wrong with these sites, as they offer ways to meet, connect and stay in touch with people across Canada and around the world. However, many people, especially those who don’t understand them, fear and criticize these communities. Accusations, for example, that they encourage pedophilia and that they promote violence have been levelled against them.

Take vampirefreaks.com, an online community composed of the North American goth subculture. The name aside, there’s really nothing that sets this site apart from any of the other web communities targeted at specific subcultures. However, this site does have a couple of recent claims to fame in Canada that have led to certain members of the media and society to lash out at them.

Back in April of this year, a grisly

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# One drunken encounter does not a loving relationship make

ELIZABETH  
MCMILLAN

**"Instead of entering into a self-absorbed quest for gratification, why not try celebrating a good time with friends? A considerable amount of cursing and crying could be avoided if people stopped viewing nights out as a competition, or worse, a way to prove their own attractiveness."**

It's a tale as old as time. Girls meet tequila. Boys meet Bud. Girl get drunk. Boy gets crunk. They mingle. She's enchanting, he's charming. They fall in love and live happily ever after. Right? Wrong.

On any given night at many different establishments across this city, friends meet and enjoy each other's company. Men and women overcome awkward memories of junior-high dances by downing drinks only dreamed of at age 13. Hair gets tossed, eyebrows raise and eyes droop seductively. But chances are, if you're looking for romance, you're not in the right place.

We've all been there: suddenly the person who sat behind you in Bio class takes on a new light between highball numbers three and five. Maybe their shirt brings out their eyes—or maybe the dim lighting blurs their otherwise unattractive features. At drink six the small talk evolves into an unprecedented amount in common between the two of you—though this may or not be aided by the fact that you can only hear half the conversation. By the time you feel a hand on your arm, you're smitten by this new life-partner.

Did I say life partner? Try night

partner. While you may feel like you have an amazing connection with the person you're gyrating with to Justin Timberlake, in reality this is probably because neither of you can balance on your own.

Some people can hit the streets looking for love and find what they're looking for. Congratulations, happy couples: have fun telling that story to your 2.5 children.

The rest of the world needs a level-headed approach to socializing that includes realizing their 2am love may not like walks on the beach and just wants to get laid. This is fine if you're up for it, but you won't wake up to breakfast in bed.

For all you hopeless romantics in this world, don't expect to find your plus-one in bars, and if you do find them, lay some serious foundations before you paint castles in the sky. Don't be deluded: while you may not find statistics taped to bathroom doors about the frequency of post-bar relationship sustainability, I assure you that morning-after hangovers are far more common.

Post-bar follow-ups are rare because people are hesitant to get in touch with someone whose name they

might forget. Don't underestimate the paralyzing power of embarrassment either: it will put the breaks on any budding romance brewed with the intoxicating effect of liquid lube.

We centre much of our socializing around kicking back and letting go of inhibitions faster than we close our books at the mention of margaritas. Instead of entering into a self-absorbed quest for gratification, why not try celebrating a good time with friends? A considerable amount of cursing and crying could be avoided if people stopped viewing nights out as a competition, or worse, a way to prove their own attractiveness.

Before you start a year of mind-blowing bar-hopping adventures, take those beer goggles off, brush up on your personal limits, and enter the playing field knowing the rules of the game.

Be safe and have fun. If you're lucky enough to find that special someone, make sure you go out for pizza first; there, under the harsh light of fluorescent reality, you can carefully measure your compatibility.

And remember, before you go out looking for Mr or Ms Right, wear the right shoes—it could be a long, uncomfortable walk in the morning.

# Just go with your lobe

**When it comes to finding the love of your life, a little bit of common sense will go a long way**

PAUL  
KNOECHEL

practicality of such things. And while it would be wonderful if your emotions led you straight towards the perfect person, more often than not your hormones will lead you towards that good-looking bitch or asshole (depending on your preference).

As bad as getting into a relationship with a tool is, that's nothing compared to the person who can't bring themselves to leave a crappy relationship because "they're in love." Over and over, these people ignore the opinions of every single person who sees their terrible relationship for what it is because they've over-romanticized the situation, never once stopping to examine it with some semblance of logic and simply fooling themselves instead. People will stay with someone far after the relationship has run its course, clinging to the love that was, never bringing a rational cell in their body to bear on the situation because it's considered a heartless way to approach this sensation of twitterpation.

I'm not saying stop listening to your heart—just use the brain in coordination with it. Chances are, you'll still find that head-over-heels love that makes you skip, prance, dance, and generally grin like you're mentally disturbed all day long. This way, at the end of the day, when someone asks what's so great about this thing you're sharing with your partner, you'll be able to tell of the laughs, discussions, thoughts, emotions, sex and respect that's shared. Don't be an idiot and just say, "We're so in love!"

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MIKE OTTO

# HUB studio a work in progress



KELSEY TANASIUK

Deep beneath the glimmer and neon lights of HUB lies a series of twisted caverns known by few. With many of its rooms guarded by password-cued but otherwise immovable doors, HUB basement is a place seen only by a select group. With the highest of ceilings and white walls known to change colour as the year goes by, it may seem that this is a place of magic, wonderment and secrecy—but I know the deep, dark truth, friends.

These are art studios. A place some that some of your fellow campus creatures will call home for the year, but far from where the general population resides. Certain differences are understandable, for instance the contrast between newly renovated CEB

classrooms and the sinks of HUB 100 covered in centuries’ worth of acrylic paints. Other discrepancies, however, are not so easily brushed over.

The classrooms used by the new Art and Design students were badly damaged by water a year or so ago, and this is the first impression that many of the first-years on campus get. Being the optimist I am, I thought the studios for the higher-level classes would be in better condition, but when I started my painting and drawing classes, I had my fragile dreams stomped upon.

Sitting in one of the cavernous rooms on the first day of classes, I found myself transfixed at the sight of the ceiling: brown where it should be cream-colored; broken and water damaged; the tiles in the roof ready to cave in—or at the very least spawn some sort of horrible airborne virus. Although the ceiling was an eyesore, I pushed it out of my mind. After all, it’s the ceiling: it can’t affect my work at all—unless, of course, it caved in for real.

The surprises just kept on coming, however, as my stay in the cavern

increased. When the time came to claim a plan chest where I could keep my art supplies for the year, the selection was meagre. All the other options had been snapped up and I was left with a drawer high above the others. Now I’m not a midget by any means, but I am shorter than average; add this to the fact that the ladder shakes and my drawer sticks, and I may end up as a skeleton by the end of the year.

To me this is a huge disappointment. Our university’s Fine Arts program is fine indeed. The instructors and professors are friendly, helpful and knowledgeable. The art store is conveniently located, and enrolment in the program is high. It’s just the facilities that are the problem. It’s also understandable that the University wouldn’t want to make the art studios the prettiest place on campus, because really, everything is going to get covered in paint.

But on that note, art students are generally pretty easy to please. All we really want a place to proudly hang our work—and not hang our heads in shame.

# I’ll take one flu over a cuckoo test

Questionnaire on potential pandemic leaves many questions unanswered



ROBIN PALMER

I’m all for planning ahead. Should a sudden dangerous illness arise, I would love a plan to be in place to remedy the situation. However, there’s such a thing as going too far. Case in point: as any student or staff member who checks their University webmail with any regularity knows, the Public Health Response Committee recently released a questionnaire through e-mail that was meant to collect information regarding the potential of a sudden influenza pandemic. But as anyone who actually completed the Influenza Pandemic Questionnaire knows, there’s a fine line between collecting information and asking completely bizarre and possibly useless questions.

At first glance, the questionnaire appears fairly reasonable. It begins with questions regarding the age, living conditions and general health of the person being surveyed. The survey then progresses through “General Knowledge,” “Health Care Resource Allocation” and, my personal favourite, “Willingness to Volunteer During a Pandemic.”

The “General Information” section was fairly bland until question 17, which asked “How likely do you think you may be affected by the following disease or injuries in the next year?” The person being surveyed was then asked to rank several diseases or injuries based on their likelihood of occurring. These diseases or injuries span the distance of “cold” and “annual flu” right through to “heart attack” and “traffic injury.” Now, I don’t know about everyone else, but I can’t exactly predict when I’m going to be struck by a bus.

“General Knowledge,” which mainly concerns the flu, asks, “Do you think it is possible to develop a vaccine before we know what strain of influenza is causing the pandemic?” Wait a minute. Vaccinations work by injecting a person with weakened or dead pathogens so that their immune system can produce antibodies to fight off an actual invasion of those pathogens. The fun thing about pathogens is they’re unique to each strain of infectious agent. How exactly does the Public Health Response Committee plan on producing these pathogens without knowing the strain of influenza?

Next comes my favourite section, “Willingness to Volunteer During a Pandemic.” This seems to be based on the assumption that during a pandemic, health-care centres will be

understaffed. Thus the section is trying to gauge how heavily a response plan should depend on volunteers. But then the “C” word arises: conscription. It asks “... do you think that the government would be justified in requiring people to work?” My answer is sure—if the government officials are volunteering along with me. But possibly the scariest question arises immediately afterwards: “If there was a penalty involved with refusing to provide aid if required, what penalty should the government and/or University be able to impose?” Options range from a fine to jail time to the threat of expulsion from University.

Maybe I’m taking the questionnaire a little too personally. Maybe it will result in a viable plan. I’m hoping however, that more intelligence goes into the pandemic policy than was visible in the questionnaire. I don’t generally plan ahead for heart attacks, I don’t see how scientists plan on creating a useful vaccination from guesswork and I don’t believe in conscription—nor do I believe that the general population will accept these things, either.

In other words, I don’t see how the questionnaire will help the University plan a response to an influenza pandemic: the possible answers are either ridiculous or hinge on government policies that will not be released until the pandemic hits.

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